



The Deanery Church of England Academy
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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James
8th March 2024

Dear Parents & Carers,

‘Through love serve one and other,’ Galatians 5:13

In my visits around the school this past week, I have seen on many occasions, the collaboration and positive working between our students as they experience powerful learning together. Whether the teamwork showed by our GCSE sports students or those who took part in the problem-solving activities with the Army personnel, this God given direction was clearly bearing fruit.

As you will know from recent communications, The Park Academies Trust (TPAT) is the preferred choice of the Department for Education (DfE) for The Deanery and Kingfisher schools to move to as of 1st September 2024.

In the preparations towards this move, we have hosted a day of ‘Due Diligence’, and I have been in regular communication and meetings with the CEO, Mr James Nicholson and Director of Inclusion, Mr David Williams. They bring considerable experience from a Trust with three Swindon secondary schools, and we are excited for the networking and collaborative working opportunities this will bring to The Deanery. We will continue to keep you updated.

SEND (POAP 2)

We will be holding Tutor SEND review meetings during the afternoon of our Inset day on Monday 15th April. More information will follow.

Pastoral (POAP 3)

This week, tutor groups were busy designing and decorating the doors for Word Book Day. This was a great activity that required lots of teamwork. The end results are fantastic. It has been lovely to hear students admiring the doors as they’ve walked around the building. Judging is going to be an incredibly tough job – look out for photos and results in the next school newsletter.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that leggings are not part of the uniform policy. Students should be in tailored, straight legged, grey trousers or the school skirt. As always, we appreciate your support in maintaining this standard.

Attendance (POAP 3)

Punctuality in the morning continues to improve which means that we are issuing less detentions for late arrival. As a reminder the gate closes at 8.45am.

With Spring approaching we often think about booking holidays. Please be reminded that any leave taken during school term time will be subject to a fixed penalty fine from the local authority and will affect your child's overall attendance and impact their learning.

School Chaplain (POAP 4)

Chaplaincy continues to offer pupils a space to talk with Owen our chaplain who is at school every Tuesday and Wednesday. If his door is open anyone is welcome to pop in, he helps people find hope and live hopefully, especially important when life seems despairing. We have also started an increasingly popular lunchtime sung worship session on Tuesday's from 12:45 – 1:15 open to all, to complement our after school Wild club where staff and students are currently finding out what Jesus is like through John's gospel. Owen also gathers together with those who would like to pray for our school, the next event is on Wednesday April the 17th for an hour from 3:30pm. Please get in touch with him if you'd like to attend.

Army Careers (POAP 5)

The Southwest Regional Army Engagement Team spent Tuesday with all our Year 9 students, focusing on developing the skills of leadership, team building, STEM, and decision-making. The activities for the day included an Army careers Presentation and Q&A, Between the Lines media challenge, The Enigma Code, Bridge too Far (plank walking!) and researching careers via our START online Platform.

High School Musical - (POAP 4)

Don't forget to buy your tickets for our school production of High School musical, which is being presented on the 21st and 22nd March. All parents, carers and friends are welcome, you can buy your tickets via ParentPay. Limited tickets will also be available on the night, so don't miss out!

Duke of Edinburgh - (POAP 4)

Our Duke of Edinburgh group attended a training on Saturday. Please see the email below that came from the organisers. Over 70 children are currently completing the Duke of Edinburgh award which is the highest number in the Southwest.

"This is just a quick note to say how brilliant it was for our instructors to come in on Saturday. I counted this morning and I have personally visited over 50 training days this year alone, and can honestly say that in my 14 years of BXM, never have I walked in to a Bronze training day and seen such a calm, friendly environment. The students were engaged, mature and just so nice. Normally we just get a report from the senior instructor about the day but since Saturday ALL the instructors have individually sent a positive message into the office.

All the instructors involved (and more) are now asking to work on The Deanery expeditions. Please pass on my personal thanks to all of the students (and your helpful staff). They definitely did the school proud.”

What a wonderful way to end this week’s update letter, I hope you are all blessed with a peaceful weekend.

Kelly Osborne-James
Headteacher