



The Deanery Church of England Academy  
Peglars Way, Wichelstowe, Swindon SN1 7DA

T: 01793 236611  
[enquiries@dcea.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dcea.org.uk)  
[www.dcea.org.uk](http://www.dcea.org.uk)

Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I firstly lead with some news about Mrs Gallagher, our Faculty Leader for Humanities. In the last two weeks she has been diagnosed with a brain tumour and has asked us to make all parents aware of this. She will be working from home for a period of time, whilst she is able to, and we are supporting her. We are also supporting her tutor group and classes, and I am sure that you will join me in passing prayers and good wishes to her family as she starts her treatment.

*'Love Thy Neighbour as yourself', Matthew 22 Verse 39*

With Valentine's Day next week this verse has focussed my mind on the behaviours of our students. Are we all driven to show this care and kindness to each other, questioning – what does this look like day to day? This will be a focus next term as we seek to nurture all of our students to be respectful citizens in our school and society.

(POAP 1 and 6) The SLT and Heads of Faculty have continued to play a key role in the recruitment of new Deanery teaching and support staff. As a result, the majority of those newly recruited will be starting with us after the Easter holidays. The impact being less cover lessons for our students and more subject specialist teachers to facilitate high quality learning.

**Sport and Enrichment** – (POAP 4) This week, Richard White has been in from Swindon Rugby Club over the past two weeks delivering some of the girl's rugby lessons in PE - a huge success so far and the possibility of a girls rugby enrichment to start up after half-term. Wiltshire Cricket were also in today for a Street Cricket Workshop with some of our students. The Y10 boys played a football friendly at GWA, losing out 5-3, but representing the school outstandingly. The girls KS3&4 badminton festival happened on Tuesday at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy - multiple matches were played against a number of Swindon's secondary schools - all the girls had a lot of fun despite little badminton experience prior to the event. The PE Team of the term has been announced and is up on display in the PE corridor - this will shortly be announced on the school's PE social media platform too. The Sports Captains have all received their badges during celebration assemblies this week to recognise their contributions towards house sport so far this year. Perseverance were announced as the

House winners for the latest House Netball, Football and Tag rugby events held during two weeks in January.

**Careers** - (POAP 5) On Tuesday 6th February, a group of Year 11 students, with the intent of applying for an Apprenticeship at Post-16, attended APPREN-T-FEST, at STEAM Museum. This gave our students an opportunity to fully understand what an apprenticeship is and how they can benefit from an apprenticeship scheme. The students had the opportunity to meet over 35 employers who offer apprenticeships, along with gaining an insight into life in their industry, learning about their company culture and what opportunities they have to offer.

Current Apprentices were on hand to for our students to speak to, along with listening to the knowledge and experience they had gained from their apprenticeship. Finally, a Careers Extra Zone enabled our students to find out about the art of CV writing, how to prepare for interviews and how to complete applications. A great, informative day had by all!

**Attendance** - (POAP 3) Thank you for those students who continue to maintain good attendance and punctuality throughout the term. Please be advised that low attendance letters will be issued over the coming weeks to inform parents / carers if their child's attendance falls below the government expectation. As always, we are here to support.

**Pastoral** - After reviewing the data for the last two terms, it is evident that our uniform standards have improved significantly. Far more students are now being rewarded with house points for being in correct uniform, and the number of sanctions being issued is beginning to drop. With that in mind we have been able to make the positive change to stop whole school roll calls in the morning.

Instead, students will go straight to their tutor base and have 10 minutes to start the day with their tutor (as the first point of contact). This will be in place as soon as we return from half term. During this 10-minute time, uniform and equipment will continue to be checked to ensure that standards don't drop. As before, house points will be issued for those students who have the correct uniform, equipment and are punctual. If students are not in uniform or are missing basic equipment, they will be issued a L2 sanction. Students will be expected to be in tutor bases at 8.45am; the school doors will open at 8.40am to allow them to come in and go to their locker or use the toilet before lessons. Any students late to their tutor bases will receive a L2 detention. Any students arriving after the gate has been closed at 08.45 will receive an L2 detention from their tutor or the attendance team. Any student arriving after 09:15 will receive an L3 detention.

This is a significant step forwards for the school; to see such improvements and being able to remove roll call from the school day. A sincere well done to everyone who has contributed to this rise in standards. Maintaining these high standards going forward will help us in our plight to ensure that The Deanery students live out our values each and every day. Thank you for your support in helping us to achieve this improvement and I pray all of our students and staff are blessed with a restful break.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James