

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



T: 01793 236611

enquiries@dcea.org.uk

www.dcea.org.uk

Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James

Headteacher Update

10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been my privilege to experience first-hand the many opportunities that Deanery students have been given to flourish this past week. We have enjoyed the Education and Business Partnership Day, to the Literacy Fest, Remembrance assemblies and display competition.

Over the coming weeks, I will be providing updates directly aligned to the six priorities identified in the Post Ofsted Action Plan as detailed in the last letter.

Curriculum and all that it means to us, will remain a key priority. I am excited to report in addition to the Careers Day mentioned above, the school has purchased a new interactive online careers platform which was introduced to Y11 students last week. By the end of the academic year, all students will have access to this platform through their VIP lessons. More information will follow in subsequent newsletters and communications.

Learning walks, scrutinies and faculty time have focused on assessment and feedback identifying the impact on student learning. Faculty time was productive with areas to celebrate identified and next steps.

Attendance and Punctuality have been and will continue to be a key focus area for improvement. Student feedback this week (general and from my meeting with Student Council members) has shown high levels of engagement across the school with the increase in positive points being awarded.

Meeting student's additional needs continues to remain high on our agenda for rapid improvement and is permeating all that we do. All teachers are implementing and securing Teach Like a Champion strategies and approaches in their lessons. Adaptive teaching strategies are also having an impact on the quality of learning, and this is being observed regularly.

Behaviour to be safe, ready and respectful leads to behaviour for learning and this will remain an expectation for all students. I am working closely with the Pastoral and Safeguarding teams to monitor the impact of systems to ensure that pupils are being supported to succeed whilst ensuring all students remain safe and able to learn.

Each week we will have notices to share from key areas of focus, they will be provided by Pastoral, Attendance, SEND and our Faculties. We will rotate these in turn.

Attendance

We are pleased to welcome our new Attendance Officer Fiona Woodfield and Attendance Administrator Maddie Easter. Our overall ongoing focus is 'whole school attendance'.

Thanks to the hard work of this team, and the continued dedication of the teaching staff, we have seen whole school attendance increase from Term 1 to Term 2. The Attendance Team focus for Term 2 is 'start of school punctuality'. Please be reminded that students should be in school for roll call by 8.45. If your child arrives later than 8.45 the gate will be closed, and a late mark given. Your partnership with improving punctuality and attendance is very important.

Pastoral

Linked in with the attendance focus on punctuality, the pastoral team have introduced more rewards for students who are regularly doing the right things. This week alone over 1200 house points have been issued to students who are turning up to lessons on time and ready to learn. These house points are just part of the 8800 issued across the student body in the last 4 days.

We will continue to work on student punctuality but will also be doing a big push on uniform. Blazers are a compulsory part of the uniform and should be worn throughout the day. Students are also not permitted to wear leggings and should be in grey, tailored trousers or the school skirt, worn at a suitable length.

We also ask for students who have nose piercings to replace them with a clear retainer or cover them with a plaster. Students wearing nose studs or nose rings in school will be challenged.

Summary

Each day we are developing and refining systems to ensure they are consistent which will strongly support the effective running of the school. As a staffing team, we fully acknowledge the integral part you play in the education of our students and thank you with all sincerity for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Kelly Osborne-James