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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James
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Dear parents and carers,

Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future”.

In reference to the Trust letter signed from our CEO today, I will of course, keep you updated as new information becomes available over the coming weeks and months.

I feel strongly that we are blessed to have a dedicated staff who care about our students, working tirelessly to help them be the best they can be. I believe each day we are one step closer to living out our vision. We are making progress against the Post Ofsted Action Plan (POAP) and I hope you will continue to see the changes for the better as we move through the terms.

Y11 mocks begin on Monday 15th January and as a result, we have been busily finalising preparations. This is a significant milestone in the life of The Deanery – an exciting first. I am sure you will join me in wishing each student every success and please remember them in your prayers.

(POAP 1 and 6) As part of my monitoring duties this week, I have looked specifically at Maths and students’ success in the autumn term assessments. Analysing their data informs our plans for this term onwards to ensure pupils reach their potential and have the support they need, particularly those who need to make accelerated progress. In addition to looking at end of term maths attainment data, I have also analysed Attitudes to Learning and Behaviour for Learning. There is a significant correlation with attitudes and progress which allows us to identify whether students are feeling supported, confident and equipped to learn. In Key Stage 3 (Y7 – 9), 92% of students met the highest criteria for both Attitudes and Behaviour for Learning. In Y10, the number is slightly lower at 88% and we will be actioning this over the coming months ensuring we are capturing student voice to support them further in their studies and their daily life at school so there are no barriers to success. Y11 mocks data will drive the revision offer for the spring terms in addition to identifying the key areas for learning to be prioritised. More information to follow on this shortly.

(POAP 1 and 6) Yesterday evening, both Mrs Gallagher and myself attended the Christian Distinctiveness and Ethos Committee. Also, in attendance, was our Chair of Academy Council, other AC members and our chaplain, Reverend Owen Green. Our aim is to evaluate the impact of our theologically rooted Christian vision to ensure we are enabling all of our students and adults to flourish. The framework (SIAMS) includes an emphasis on the quality of teaching, ensuring effective and relevant training for staff aligned closely to a curriculum focus.

(POAP 4 and 6) An action from this meeting will be to review our current enrichment provision to make our offer stronger where students can experience new and exciting opportunities to develop new skills and/or nurture existing talents.

(POAP 4) New to our enrichment offer is the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award which was launched with Mrs Gallagher yesterday. Thirty-five students from Years 7-9 have signed up to participate which is very exciting for them and the school. It supports students to become confident and resilient leaders, who develop a growth mindset, become independent thinkers and good communicators, and who have compassion and care for their communities. This award is an opportunity for students to develop core skills through practical activities and team building challenges, including effective communication, creative thinking, emotional intelligence, humility and compassion. It also creates opportunities for social action, which is the foundation on which Jesus built his Church. "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy".

(POAP 4) Ms Showler arranged for Year 7 to take part in a 'Talk the Talk' workshop on Tuesday which involved them practicing their public speaking skills, confidence when talking in front of others and general discussion skills. All of them enjoyed watching each other progress throughout the day and were brilliant at giving feedback to others to help them better their speeches. We hope this encourages them to continue developing and applying the skills that they have learnt from this workshop in assemblies, speaking and listening and in their lessons.

Attendance - The first week return to school had seen an improvement of overall school attendance to 88%. Year 7 and 10 have the highest attendance which is 91% - keep up the good work.

A reminder that students must be in school ready for an 8.45 start, it is important for their own learning and for others in their classes that they do not disrupt lessons by coming in late.

Please be reminded that Year 11 have their MOCK GCSE's week commencing 15 January, you can find the timetable here. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in a timely manner with all the equipment they are allowed to take in with them. Students who are late for morning exams will not be admitted if the exam has started.

Pastoral - Since returning to school after the Christmas break, students have already been rewarded with over 28000 house points. We are now including behaviour reports on ClassCharts. Should a child need to go on report, this will be online and can be monitored by parents and students via the ClassCharts app. Communication with parents will happen regarding any behaviour that leads students to being put on report.

A reminder that, in line with our uniform policy, students should not have false nails or nail varnish, be wearing leggings or have nose piercings in. Should a student already have their nose pierced, they can wear a clear nose stud in school or will need to cover it with a plaster.

I wish you a peaceful weekend, and I look forward to updating you again next week.

Kind regards

Mrs Osborne-James