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Good Morning,

**'And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up'.**

Galatians 6: Verse 9

On Thursday, it was my pleasure to host the Y7 Hot Chocolate and Cookies lunchtime treat for our students who achieved over 800 positive points.

It was a happy occasion, so many were in awe of how quickly time had passed and how they will soon be in Year 8. It was lovely to hear of how they had achieved so many positive points for effort, punctuality, uniform, correct equipment and good progress.

A sincere well done to all those that attended.

Also on Thursday evening, we hosted the Y7 student 2024 intake meeting where we were able to talk of the many positive outcomes following the hard work and dedication of the Deanery staffing team since the Ofsted report in October.

(POAP1 and 6) From my Headteacher updates you will know that recruitment has been a priority. More importantly however, has been the need to retain our high-quality passionate staff by ensuring they feel cared for and supported.

Since starting my role as headteacher in October, I can say with heartfelt gratitude, that I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most inspired and dedicated staff in my career to date. People who go above and beyond not only in the classroom but at every opportunity to keep our students safe; physically but emotionally also. This relentless drive to help our students flourish is seen daily, most recently observed in the way staff have facilitated GCSE revision sessions. I want to offer my sincere thanks to all the staff.

As a staffing body, we were aware of the lack of consistency in teaching due to the high levels of cover staff. Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to single out Mrs Marshall (Cover Manager) and Mr North (Cover Supervisor) both appointed this academic year. Together, working closely with Mr McDonald, they have ensured that all lessons have been covered, carefully matching the skillsets of our committed cover staff to the school's needs.

Despite the diligence and hard work of the various staffing teams within the school, the Ofsted report need to state, 'Cover staff and non-specialists teach a high proportion of the lessons in this school'.

After months of relentless effort, it is with great excitement that I can share the following news, September for the first time in several years, there will be no 'Vacancy' teacher slots on the teaching timetable. All classes, therefore, will have named teachers teaching their lessons.

As a result, all students will be consistently accessing the intended subject content without gaps or repetition helping to facilitate quality first teaching in every classroom. This is the strong starting point to build on for September that will propel out students to success.

(POAP 4) Looking ahead, plans are underway to prepare for our school Sports Day. Our Head of Department, Mr Harmer, is also beavering away to secure a strong enrichment offer for September again alongside Mr McDonald, Curriculum Lead.

Since I last wrote, I have had the pleasure of meeting with Julia Watts (School Advisor for Diocese of Bristol) with Mrs Gallagher to discuss SIAMs and our soon to be expected SIAMs inspection. This was later discussed in a Christian Distinctiveness meeting attended by our Chaplain, Owen Green and Nigel Howarth our Academy Link Governor. Both were fruitful meetings and as a result we now have two training sessions booked focussing on the new SIAMs Framework for Inspection both this term and in the early autumn.

#### Attendance (POAP 3)

Term 5 - 89.54 % - a disappointing decrease. However, we had some Year 11 students take unauthorised leave towards the end of the term. Let's raise this back to the 90% we achieved earlier this term and end term 6 with our highest attendance rate to date.

Our Attendance Assemblies were a great success, these were delivered to Year 7,8 & 9 with Year 10 scheduled for term 6. Student participation was very good with many rewards points given out. Students at our school understand to importance of attendance and the impact it will have on their future.

The process for GCSE attendance has been a success, a sincere thank you to our students and we hope the results in August reflect your hard work and the dedication of your teachers.

As we approach holiday season, please be reminded that any holiday taken during term time will not be authorised and subject to a local authority fine.

'Working together to improve school attendance', the new government statutory guidance will be in place from 19 August 2024. The new document reminds us that 'Improving attendance is everyone's business'. Schools, Families and Local Authorities must work together more to prevent non-attendance. The document can be viewed [here](#), and further information will follow from the attendance team.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on email  
[fiona.woodfield@dcea.org.uk](mailto:fiona.woodfield@dcea.org.uk)

I am hopeful that we will enjoy more summer-like weather over the next few weeks and regardless, pray we all continue to shine our light to the service of others.

I thank you for your continued support which has been a true blessing these past nine months.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James