



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
15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term's school value has been 'hope'. Holding onto 'hope' has permeated all that we have done and all that we have achieved during this half term. The hope of improvement has been our golden thread. Wider hope – the hope that this special season brings helps us all look forward into 2024 with great expectation.

Staff have worked diligently to plan an array of curriculum enhancing opportunities that will be of benefit to the whole child; helping them to discover new interests and talents. (Priority 4)

This term we will be saying sad goodbyes to staff members from various faculties and departments within the school. With sincere appreciation, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks for their dedication and commitment to our Deanery students and for the positive difference they have made.

PE Update – Mr.Harmer

The Deanery hosted round 3 of the Year 7 Swindon Schools girls football with 5 schools playing a round robin of fixtures on the schools astro - it was a brilliant event showcasing some excellent football, with our Y7s winning 3 games of the 4. We are hopeful that they will now progress through to the finals in January.

The Year 9 boys lost to Bradon Forest in the semi-finals of the Swindon Schools Basketball, but put in a sterling effort.

The Y8&9 girls football team travelled to Kingsdown School in another round robin fixture, playing 4 games, drawing 3 and losing 1.

Term 3 update: Girl's football and boys basketball finals to be completed in January, alongside a number of alternative sports festivals happening in week 3 onwards of the New Year.

Pastoral Update – Ms.Parry

We have developed a real culture of positivity within our school. Over term 2 alone we have awarded students with nearly **90000** house points and are rewarding 9 times more than sanctions are given. This is a real credit to our students who are working hard to flourish and achieve every day in school.

This term's top tutor groups for each year group are: 7GXH, 8MXE, 9SZC, 10CJN and 11BXH. Well done to those groups for this amazing achievement.

After we return to school for Term 3, students in reflection will be expected to stay in school until 4pm as part of the internal suspension sanction. Whilst in reflection, the staff manning the room will do some restorative work with students to try and work with them to reduce the behaviours that led to them being in reflection. Please do check ClassCharts so you are aware when your child has detentions or reflection, so you know what time they are due to leave school. We are aware that there are still some parents who have yet to access their ClassCharts accounts. Please do contact your child's tutor if you need another copy of your log in details.

Y11 Maths Excursion – Mrs. Koza

On Tuesday this week, we took ten of our most able Mathematicians to Commonweal for an inspirational talk from Mathematician, Ben Sparks. Ben talked about the creation of numbers and the entertaining journey through humanity's mathematical attempts to wrestle with the deepest questions behind our day-to-day use of numbers, and their consequences. He asked pupils 'Where do numbers come from?' Pupils explored the philosophy of Maths behind everyday examples and familiar numbers. Pupils also had a glimpse of what lies beyond your understanding of the real numbers and how abstract mathematical ideas have changed the world we live in. Pupils were left thinking whether Maths is created by us, or are we discovering eternal truth?

Attendance

(Priority 3) Overall school attendance has improved over this term for the school, we have also decreased the number of late attendances in the morning. Thank you for your support with this. We are heartened that our Y7 attendance figure for the term is now above both the Swindon and National averages. We will be focusing on all years after the Christmas break to improve the whole school average attendance figures.

Since my appointment as headteacher, I have worked diligently with our HR, Finance and Marketing staff members to swiftly address our recruitment and retention strategy. As a result, we expect to welcome new Deanery staff in January, including those from Maths, English, PE, Art and DT and IT specialists.

(Priority 1 and 6) Our January training day will include a focus on Knowledge Organisers as we look to further support our students in not only learning the key components but most importantly building their schemata; increasing the accuracy and automaticity of their recall to ensure that knowledge is secure across the curriculum.

(Priority 1 and 6) The focus on Teaching Like A Champion has seen a significant improvement across the teaching approaches which in turn, is helping students to understand how to learn more and remember more.

(Priority 1 and 6) Further networking opportunities and cross collaboration will focus highly next year including moderation of assessment across all subject faculties. This will support the school in ensuring our judgements are accurate and that progress is identified quickly to allow areas of weakness/support to be swiftly addressed.

Mrs. Scotford has been updating the school website with dedicated Y11 resources. You can access this [here](#). So far, we have added the PowerPoint and the resources from the 4th December 'How to Revise' workshop and also a copy of the January mock timetable. Hopefully this is useful information for you to access if you have a Y11 child at school.

In my briefing this morning with staff, I shared how blessed I feel to be offered the role of Headteacher and to have received the staff's positivity and encouragement. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and invaluable support which I have truly appreciated. Each child deserves every opportunity to be valued, to be respected and to flourish and I will do my best each day to lead the Deanery staffing team to achieve this.

I hope and pray you are blessed with a special Christmas filled with love, joy and happiness.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life". John 3:16

I will write again during the first week back and continue to provide you with updates.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James