



The Deanery Church of England Academy
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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James
22nd April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your request to God’.

Philippians 4:6

We certainly have much to be thankful for. This week started with a focussed training day including Safeguarding and TLAC principles led by members of the Senior Leadership Team (POAP 1). These drivers for improvement will permeate teaching and learning through the summer term.

(POAP 4 and 6) I want to thank the staff for their continued dedication, shown not only in their day-to-day work but their support and attendance at the Y11 Examination Information Sharing Evening, the Y7 Parent’s Evening and Y11 music concert this week as well as many others. Once again, our talented students performed to an enthusiastic and proud audience.

On Saturday afternoon, I had the pleasure of attending the ‘Another Moment in Time’ concert with my family. We all enjoyed hearing the musical talents of the Deanery students, in addition to the Brunel Brass Academy and the Spotlight Choir. Once again, a sincere thank you to all those students who performed and to Mrs Debbie Mathews, Head of Performing Arts, for her continued passion and commitment.

Meetings with members of the incoming Trust are continuing and I will keep you up to date as we have more information to share.

As a reminder, we will, when deemed necessary, move the school into a lockdown situation. This has been effectively and successfully carried out recently to ensure the safety of our students and staff is not compromised. We will always err on the side of caution to protect our Deanery family.

PASTORAL

We are excited to be trialling a new rewards initiative this term – the student in each year group with the most house points each week will receive a Skip the Queue pass for Friday's lunch. We want to be able to recognise those students on a short-term basis using a reward suggestion from the student voice (and know how popular the fish and chip lunches are!) We will continue to review this and will look to extend it if this is popular.

Please can we ask for your support to ensure students are appropriately dressed for school. We have noticed many girls shortening their skirts to an unsuitable level for school. There has also been an increase in the amount of jewellery being seen in school. This causes a health and safety issue for PE and DT lessons as well as going against the uniform policy:

- **Jewellery** may only consist of a watch and 1 pair of sensible earrings (only in the earlobes), no other piercings are permitted. A maximum of one charity band is permitted, no other bracelets should be worn.

From Monday, an excess jewellery will be confiscated by tutors during the AM registration (or by classroom teachers if it is put on throughout the day). Your support with this is always much appreciated and students are already aware.

ATTENDANCE

We are eager to share with you that we now have a cumulative attendance figure of **90%** from September 2023 to end of term 4. This is a significant improvement. Thank you to our students, parents and staff; the triangulation of which has brought this about.

We are however, noticing an increase in holiday requests. Please be advised that we do not authorise any holiday taken in term time.

Punctuality is of paramount importance to the effective running of our school day, please ensure that students arrive before the gate closes at the new time of 08.40am, allowing them enough time to attend the tutor period. Any late students will wait in the Cornerstone until the end of tutor period and will be issued with a Level 3 sanction.

Following parental feedback, we will be moving these updates to fortnightly, so the next letter will be sent on Friday 3rd May.

I hope you have a lovely week and thank you for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Kelly Osborne-James