

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

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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

'You will eat the fruit of your labour; blessings and prosperity will be yours' Psalms 128

Such a blessing to be able to experience first-hand the talents of our young people as I was privileged to enjoy the High School Musical rehearsals. A sincere well done for the opening night that left everyone smiling and full of energy. Hoping and praying for tonight to be as successful. A sincere well-done to everyone involved. Such successes are only achieved with a talented and dedicated staffing and student team.

Speaking with students is always a blessing and I was invited by Ms Showler, Head of Y7 to attend their awards assembly this morning. I was in awe of the number of points pupils have collected and will be rewarding those with Platinum this week with a Hotel Chocolate treat and cookie. I will be facilitating this for all students who achieve the Platinum level over the next few months. Congratulations to all students who are collecting positive points and doing their best to achieve and succeed.

During this week, I met with our school chaplain, Rev Owen Green as we discussed Easter assemblies, Christian Distinctiveness and our SIAMs inspection. More information to follow over the coming weeks.

Last night I attended our Academy Council meeting where feedback from our Trust Hub Director of Learning/Director of Education and AC members regarding student behaviour and views of the school was extremely positive. Pastoral support from staff was recounted as a strength by our students; testimony to the work of our dedicated team and all staff who daily go above and beyond to help our students during their time at school.

I have continued to meet with members of staff from The Parks Academy Trust and we continue to obtain support in particular, subject support and revision for our students—we will continue to keep you updated. I look forward to seeing some of you at the TPAT event on Wednesday 27th March at 6pm.

I want to end on a special thank you for all of the work and support shown by Mrs Bishop in particular as well as Ms Connors, Mr Dan, our previous Exams Officer Ms Vaughan and SMRT Bristol. On Tuesday of this week, Mrs Bishop and I led the JCQ Readiness Inspection. There were 82 criteria, and it was imperative that we pass in order to be a centre for GCSEs this summer. I am pleased to announce that we achieved 'fully met' in each of the 82 sections. This will be a strong starting point for our new Exams Officer to take over from on the 15th April.

Kind regards

Mrs. Osborne-James

Attendance (POAP3)

We have noticed an increase in illness this past week which has affected our attendance figures, let's have one last push for good attendance before Easter. Thank you

Pastoral (POAP3)

This week we welcomed members of the Diocese of Bristol Academy Trust in school. There was a student voice related to enrichment as well as discussions with members of the pastoral team. It was wonderful to hear the students saying such positive things about their experiences in school as well as having the opportunity to highlight some of the work the staff have been doing to continue on the journey of school improvement.

We look forward to welcoming the parents of Year 10 students for their parents" evening on 28th March. The Year 7 parents evening will be in the first week back after Easter, with more information being sent directly to those involved.

Duke of Edinburgh Award (POAP4)

Our Y10 & Y11 DofE participants completed their training expedition last weekend in a mixture of weather conditions. They all worked incredibly hard and covered considerable distance whilst learning all the necessary skills for their qualifying expedition in the summer. Despite muddy and windy patches they all seemed to enjoy themselves!! This week we have launched the DofE bronze award to our Y9 students and will be hosting a parents' information event on 24th April for Y9 parents; keep an eye out for more details on MyEd.