



The Deanery Church of England Academy
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Headteacher – Mrs Kelly Osborne-James

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Dear Parents/Carers,

‘But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint’. Isaiah 40:31

Walking past the newly sprung snow drops after church on Sunday, the sun peering through the clouds reminded me of the hope of what is to come. I have great hope that the school in its journey will continue to be blessed as with each step, we make progress and see improvements.

Pastoral – (POAP 6) Students have come back after the break with a fantastic attitude. The move to morning registrations in tutor bases has been well received by all and we are noticing how smart the students are. We have also already noticed how focused students are in lessons since removing the time out and toilet cards – another fantastic step forwards for them and the school.

This week Year 9 parents evening took place and was a huge success. We are looking forward to welcoming the parents of our Year 11 students next week and would ask parents to keep reminding their children to book appointments for all examined subjects.

Attendance - (POAP 3) Term 4 has seen an improvement with late arrivals to school and we are excited to see how the number of lates will continue to drop throughout the term. Please be reminded that students who arrive late will be issued with a detention. Your support in helping your child to arrive at school in plenty of time to be ready for learning is invaluable.

We are also pleased to announce that our cumulative attendance data has improved since term one. The Deanery has an average overall attendance of 89% and in some year groups this is now above 90%. 89% attendance equates to missing 21 days of school in a year and a considerable amount of learning. We believe our whole school attendance with your continued support, will rise above 90% over the next few weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact the Attendance Team if you would like support with your child’s attendance.

Curriculum (POAP 1) – Starting from Monday 26th February, we have some exciting curriculum changes to share with you.

These adjustments aim to utilise our teachers' specialisms and new appointments to their fullest potential, ultimately enhancing your child's learning experience.

Firstly, we are thrilled to introduce photography into the Year 9 curriculum. This addition will complement the existing Art program and provide valuable experience for students interested in pursuing photography at Key Stage 4.

Furthermore, to make the most of our talented new art teacher, we are implementing an additional art lesson for Year 7 students. This expanded exposure to the arts will foster creativity and develop essential artistic skills from a young age.

Additionally, we have made adjustments to staffing arrangements in English, Art, and DT, ensuring your child benefits from dedicated and experienced teachers in these subjects. The changes are most significant to our Key Stage 3 students, although some Key Stage 4 lessons will have had changes of teaching staff.

Please note that there is no expectation for students to have anything specifically prepared for the first day on Monday. We understand that these changes may require adjustments, and we will be sending out updated timetables at the time. They will also be available on ClassCharts.

We believe these changes will significantly enhance your child's learning experience and provide them with even more opportunities to explore their interests and talents. For some of our older students, I appreciate that these developments will be difficult to read, having not had this opportunity for themselves in the past. For this, I can only offer an apology and state my commitment going forward, to provide opportunity in very possible situation for all of our students.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James