

28<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**‘Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning’.**

(POAP 4) It was my pleasure to be a part of the judging panel for the Deanery Talent Show. I was so very proud to see our students share their God given gifts to the pleasure of others – such dedication and talent was enjoyed. A sincere well done to all that took part, to all those who supported and to the staff who made it possible.

#### Talent Show (Mrs D Matthews)

Last week we hosted our annual talent show and as usual – Deanery students delivered in spades. The auditions had taken place before half term and those chosen to go through and battle it out pulled out all the stops to entertain an excited crowd in the Deanery theatre. With a wide variety of dance, bands, vocalists, songwriters, instrumentalists and artists, the judges (Mrs Osbourne James, Mr Parry (English) and Billy Hughes – our vocal teacher in school) had a tough job on their hands to pick a winner. This year it was Lily F (year 9) who took away the Deanery’s Got Talent Bowl - filled with sweets!

Throughout the show, rehearsals, runout performances and on the actual evening – our contestants demonstrated resilience, support of each other and a love for all things artistic and the Performing Arts team were really impressed by the level of support that we got from students and staff on the evening. A big thank you to you all – and to the audience in general – it wouldn’t have been a show without you. And it was a great show!

#### Transition time

(POAP 6) Jon Young, the new Executive Principal of The Deanery and Abbey Park is regularly in school working with the Senior Leadership Team. Currently, they are working on preparations for September.

#### Exam Period

I must take the opportunity this week to thank our Exams Officer, Mrs Ruth Hallsall and Mrs Bishop (Campus Co-ordinator) for their leading and dedication through the exam season. I would also like to extend my thanks to the exam invigilators who have supported our students through this time with care and understanding. We have been very grateful to have received positive feedback from parents and students in how the exams have run and the support that has been given. Well done to all our Y11 and Y10 students who have sat exams this summer term.



### Attendance (POAP 3) Mrs Woodfield and Mrs Easter

Swindon Schools Average attendance is **89.5%**, The Deanery whole school attendance **89.5 %**. Just after OFSTED our overall % was 86% and the Attendance Team set themselves a target to equal or be greater than the Swindon schools average by the end of the academic year. They have absolutely achieved this already, with determination and hard work from the whole school team. Thank you and well done!

We know that holidays are important family events, however, time away from school equates to hours of lost learning. Please consider this when taking your child on holiday during term time. Absences during term time will not be authorised and subject to a local authority fine.

Schools are so much more than a place to drop students at 8.30am and pick up in the afternoon. They are places to learn, socialise, escape from difficult situations. We sometimes take for granted their importance in protecting and strengthening the hopes of young people. The Deanery is looking forward to more positive changes in September and we want our students to spend time with friends under the supervision of trusted adults. Teachers do an incredible job in not only educating our children, but also looking out for them. Well done to all who have helped us raise our attendance figure to be now in line with the other schools in Swindon.

### Pastoral (Mrs S Parry)

This week we had the pleasure of taking 120 students to Thorpe Park. These students had a ratio of 100% positive to negative. They had a fantastic day; it was a real pleasure to celebrate their successes and we are excited to continue the rewards in the end of term celebration assemblies.

We also welcome our new year 7 2024-25 cohort for their induction day. We are excited to see them embrace the Deanery values ready for their September staff.

We continue to focus on uniform and punctuality and as always ask for your support with this so we can finish the academic year holding the high expectations firmly.

### Safeguarding (Miss Luckman)

(POAP 6) In the final term of the academic year, we have collated both student and staff voice in school, inclusive of our Academy Council, and this is such an important exercise to complete, to support making beneficial improvements. We will also look to collect feedback from our families in the new school year, so that we can drive these developments forwards together in the local community.

Following several incidents regarding 'sexting' in years 7-9 primarily across the town, we are working with our attached PCSOs, Justine and Vicky, to plan assemblies and workshops in the new year. SMASH Youth Project are currently working with a cohort of year 9 students and holding a weekly clinic in school, centred around Safer Relationships, which has been extremely positive.

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It was Knife Crime Awareness week last month and we ran relevant assemblies, with a tutor session and signposting. We continue to have a strong working relationship with Wiltshire Police, being one of two schools in Swindon volunteering to have the Knife Arch for a day, to fundamentally, highlight to students and families the importance of keeping safe. Students were fantastic and asked mature questions, with most of them willing to have a go.

Please be aware that Swindon are concerned presently with nitazenes now making their way onto the market. These are not approved and found in the form of powder, pills or even liquids found in vapes. They are very dangerous, and consequences can be fatal if consumed. Please continue to look after yourselves and your children throughout the summer, I and look forward to working with you all in the new academic year.

#### PE and Enrichment (Mr Harmer)

(POAP 1 and 4) This summer term has been a busy schedule of athletics, cricket and rounders fixtures. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the Year 9 and 10's event had to be postponed but the organisers are looking for an alternative date. The Year 7 and 8 event went ahead in contrasting weather conditions however and proved to be an excellent day out and competition for the 30 students involved. The Year 8 boys were the standout performers finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall against the other Swindon secondary schools.

The cricket season has also been extremely successful for The Deanery. The Year 7 and 8 combined team have now won 4 out of their 5 group games and will be looking to progress into the finals come July. The Year 9 and 10 team face Royal Wootton Bassett Academy in the cup knockout competition next week. The rounders season has been a little more hit with postponements but the girls continue to keep improving week on week.

Looking ahead, we have Sports Day on the horizon and students are currently busy in tutor sessions selecting activities ahead of what promises to be another wonderful day. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the timetable will be collapsed for a range of sporting sessions to suit all individuals. This also allows the students to once again compete for their houses and celebrate what sport and PE can do for us all. A letter will be sent home regarding the plan for this day in due course.

So much to celebrate, how wonderful it is to hear of our students being rewarded for using their gifts – whether sports, musical, creative, academic or simply but importantly living out the school's values. Thank you to everyone who is helping The Deanery on its journey to improvement and I hope you are blessed with a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Osborne-James  
Headteacher