

“Discovering and Learning Together, so all can Flourish”.

‘A tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season’ (Psalm 1:3)

Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 13

September 2024



The Deanery Way

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of my first term as Principal, I'm filled with gratitude for the warm welcome I've received from staff, pupils, and parents alike. It's been a pleasure getting to know the dedicated professionals and resilient young people who make The Deanery such a special place.

Our recent open evening and morning were a success, showcasing the excellent opportunities we offer to our community's youth. The enthusiasm and pride displayed by our pupils and staff were inspiring.

I'm pleased to report that our Senior Leadership team is currently conducting interviews with Year 11 students, focusing on their preparation for the upcoming November mock examinations. We've been impressed by the pupils' readiness and their high aspirations. This exemplifies the Deanery PROUD ethos, and we're confident this determination will continue throughout the academic year.

Personal development remains a key focus area for us. I encourage you to read the newsletter section outlining what we've covered this term. You'll also find valuable information about our careers curriculum, an essential component of our pupils' education.

Literacy has been another area of emphasis this term. Research shows that regular reading not only boosts GCSE success but also enhances cultural capital, well-being, and personal enjoyment. Our new 'Year Group Reader' initiative has been well-received by tutor groups, fostering a love for reading across the school.

I've had the pleasure of meeting our new School Council members. Their role is vital in shaping The Deanery's future, and I look forward to hearing their ideas on improving classroom experiences, social times, and the broader school life.

While we now work with The Park Academies Trust, I want to reassure you that we've retained our Christian distinctiveness. We continue to collaborate with the Christian community, ensuring our values of Wisdom, Hope, Service, and Resilience permeate everything we do.

As we embark on The Deanery's improvement journey, I'm excited about the prospects ahead. Your support and engagement are crucial to our success, and I'm grateful for the trust you've placed in us. Thank you once again for your warm welcome and ongoing support. Together, we'll continue to nurture and inspire the young minds that will shape our future.

Mr Young
Executive Principal

A Message from the CEO of the Park Academies Trust

Dear Parents/Carers

What an exciting start to the year we have had at The Deanery, kickstarted with intensive training for all staff around Teaching and Learning and over the term we have all benefited from welcoming the staff across the Wichelstowe Campus into our focused collaboration and development groups across the Trust. With a rolling program of targeted review and development work, we are seeing the positive impact of the school's rapid improvement plan already underway.

I want to recognise the impressive team of specialist staff in the school who are unapologetically focused on delivering high quality, disruption free learning and care for our pupils at The Deanery this year. It was a pleasure to be shown around the open evening event by year 8 student who are both proud of their school and clear about what they can and will achieve here.

Mrs G Piper
CEO

FACULTY FOCUS:

ENGLISH

Introducing... The Deanery English Department!

We are a happy, stable team of caring, experienced teachers. We enjoy teaching your children, and are pleased to see your children enjoying their English lessons!

Hello! My name is Mrs. Mills, and I'm the Acting Head of English.

I've been an English teacher for 19 years, working first at Bradon Forest, and then at Devizes School where I taught Years 7-13 teaching English Language, English Literature and Media. I'm delighted to be leading the English department at The Deanery, where I seek to embed a culture of high-quality teaching and learning into all aspects of the English curriculum. I am a Christian, and play an active role in my local Baptist church with my husband and children who are 14 and 11 years old respectively. I am originally from a Welsh coastal area (I am a fluent Welsh speaker and am a harpist to boot!) and my longing for the sea rarely diminishes! I am thankful to work at such a lovely school: pupils (most of the time!) are delightful, pleasant and polite; the facilities are extraordinary; staff are kind and hard-working, and a lovely culture permeates the place. I set high standards for myself, our staff, and for the pupils in our care, and am dedicated to propelling students towards academic success!



Meet the team...

My name is Mrs. Hughes and I am now in my 8th year of teaching. My specialism is Drama and I have been teaching English for over 5 years now as well. I have a passion for theatre and enjoy poetry, especially when we get to dig deep into social and political topics with the students and hear their perspectives and ideas. I live with my wife, our daughter Delphi, who is nearly 2, and our staffy called Hobson. We are a military family and we have lived all over but love the countryside; so being near the lakes in The Cotswolds is fabulous.

My background is in European Theatre and I studied for some time in Barcelona and California in physical theatre and ensemble-based theatre which includes Commedia del' Arte and Clown work. My favourite play is Yerma by Lorca and my favourite books include The Bell Jar, Birdsong, Memoirs of a Geisha, Love in the Time of Cholera and Captain Corelli's Mandolin. I believe that stories are an essential part of all cultures and that we have a duty to pass them on.



My name is Mr. Marshall. I'm father to two adult daughters, and I have been married to my Kenyan wife for 40 years, and am now a grandfather to a beautiful 7-month-old grandson. I'm a teacher of English (and German, Art, Music, Drama, History, Geography, PSHE and prison education in previous incarnations!). I am an enthusiastic coach of public speakers; I love singing and supporting drama productions; I am a willing cook and baker, and am currently experimenting with various Scotch egg recipes. I love teaching at The Deanery and have a super tutor group, 7.3!



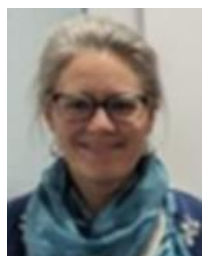
Hello, I'm Mr. Parry. I've been an English High School teacher for 28 years and have worked in a wide range of British and International establishments. This is my second year at The Deanery and I am proud to be part of an enthusiastic and dynamic team of staff. The main thing I love about this school is the wonderful diversity of students and the positive attitude they display on a daily basis. Although I've been a teacher for a long time, I still love my role and thoroughly enjoy my daily interactions with students. In my spare time I enjoy reading and writing. I also play guitar and ride motorcycles.



My name is Ms. Connors. I have a background in primary education, before I moved into the secondary sector. This is my 15th year of teaching. I am a qualified SENCo with a postgraduate in Inclusion. I am passionate about adaptive teaching and making the learning experience accessible for all students. When I am not teaching English, I am deputy head and in charge of SEND, Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance. I am currently reading Wuthering Heights and Girl, Woman, Other.

My name is Ms. Heather Penny-Larter. I am a Teacher of English, & Head of Year 10. I graduated from Leicester University with a degree in Politics and a double colour for hockey and cricket. I returned a couple of years later to complete my PGCE and began teaching in Hull in 1988 so this is my 35th year in teaching. I have been a pastoral leader and an English leader over the years. I was also a senior examiner, moderator and speaking and listening assessor for AQA for over 25 years.

In 2018, I began an adventure working as Boarding Housemistress at Harrow International School, Beijing, then at Wellington International School in Shanghai and finally NAS Ningbo. I am a keen singer, singing with Swindon Choral Society and enjoy bread baking especially as an aficionado of sourdough.



Hello! My name is Mrs. Wright, and I am a Teacher of English. This is my second year at The Deanery and I have enjoyed it immensely. I love talking about books, playing with words and working with young people, so I feel very blessed to be a teacher of English! My background is in Classics (Latin and Greek) so I'm super keen on etymology (where words come from) and grammar, but I also love the creativity of English. My interests are music (singing, playing piano and harp), cycling, walking, cooking, knitting, and I'm often busy with my local church. It's a joy to be teaching in a school where Bible verses are written on so many walls!

Hello! My name is Mr. Gaydazhiev and I am originally from Bulgaria, but I have lived in the UK for the past 12 years. I am married and have a little girl, and I love spending my time with my family, and doing DIY projects around the house and garden. Football is another passion of mine- I coach a youth football team. I am delighted to work teaching at The Deanery!



Key Stage 3 English

Key Stage 3 English is designed to bridge the gap between the holistic nature of Primary school and the rigours of GCSE courses. We try our best to ensure that Year 7 Schemes of Work are fun and creative; year 8 introduces more mature themes and content to units, which growing teenagers enjoy, while we use Year 9 Schemes of Work to help prepare students for the academic rigour of GCSEs.

TEEP lessons

Term	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1	Descriptive Writing	Descriptive Writing: Creating Utopian & Dystopian Worlds	Descriptive Writing: Gothic Horror
2	'Once' by Morris Gleitzmann: a sad, but charming, Holocaust novel	'The Giver' by Lois Lowry: a Dystopian novel	'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck: a 20 th century American novella
3	War Poetry	'Noughts & Crosses' a thought-provoking play by Malorie Blackman	Poetry: A Divided Society
4	Media: Advertising (Speaking & Listening unit) 	Transactional Writing: Rhetoric	Transactional writing
5	Transactional writing: an introduction	Identity Poetry	'Blood Brothers' play by Willy Russell (Speaking & Listening unit) 
6	Shakespeare Unit: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'	Shakespeare Unit: 'Much Ado About Nothing' (Speaking & Listening unit) 	Shakespeare Unit: 'Romeo and Juliet'

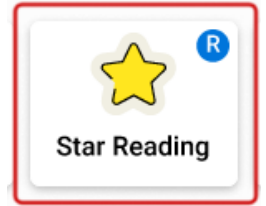
This September, we enjoyed some TEEP training days. TEEP encourages teachers to create stimulating, thought-provoking lessons for children. The English department has fully embraced this! We are thrilled to include lots of active teaching approaches in our lessons: teachers promote group work, provide specific thinking time for pupils, include drama-based games, incorporate problem solving challenges and build fun movement into lessons. These activities have produced fun, stimulating lessons, which enhance the learning experience of our pupils. Please rest assured that these activities are not a distraction from learning- rather, TEEP activities are carefully designed to compliment academic progress, not thwart it!



Reading

Star Reader Tests

All Key Stage 3 pupils have completed their 1st Star Reader test of this academic year. Pupils will undergo 3x such tests between September- July. This enables us to track pupils' reading ages and to offer reading intervention where appropriate. Reading age data will be provided in your pupils' reports throughout the year, so that you too can keep track of your pupils' reading ages and can encourage reading for pleasure at home. Ideally, a pupil's reading age will match their physical age. To boost your child's reading age, we ask that pupils read for a minimum of 1x hour a week at home, and read a wide range of increasingly challenging texts.



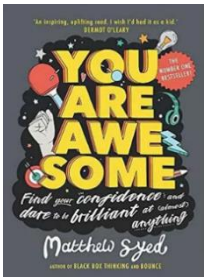
Homework

In addition to reading, pupils in Key Stage 3 are expected to spend 45 minutes per week on Tassomai, an online homework platform. Tassomai means 'Knowledge Organizer' in Old English; therefore, Tassomai covers lots of English language skills, in bite-sized chunks. Pupils have received a PowerPoint explaining how to log onto Tassomai via their Arbor accounts. Essentially, they must download the Tassomai app (or type the word 'Tassomai' into an internet search bar). To log-on, pupils must type their full school email address as a username, and then use the password 'SmartWayToStudy'. After that, pupils can change their password to a memorable individual password.



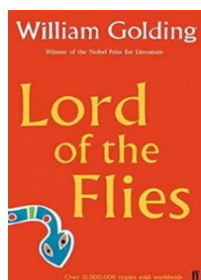
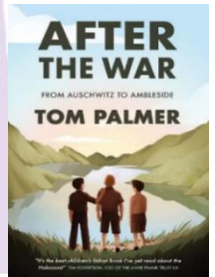
Tutor Reading Programme

All Key Stage 3 tutor groups will be following a new Tutor Reading programme, twice a week, for 25 minutes. Pupils' tutors will read to the tutor group, with pupils following along in their own copies. The idea behind this is to promote reading for pleasure, and to introduce pupils to a wide range of reading material. Having strong adult readers read aloud to pupils increases pupils' enjoyment of books, and in turn, increases pupils' own reading fluency and comprehension. This will also lead to increases in pupils' own reading ages.



Year 7s are currently reading a non-fiction book entitled 'You Are Awesome', which aims to build pupils' self-esteem and confidence- ideal as they start secondary school!

Year 8s are currently reading a World War II novel, entitled 'After the War'. Longlisted for 'The CILIP Carnegie Medal' (2021), this novel has been cited as the best children's fiction book about the Holocaust.



Year 9s are currently reading 'Lord of the Flies', the classic 1950s novel exploring themes of survival, society, violence and human nature.



Swindon Youth Literary Festival

Wyvern Theatre Trip

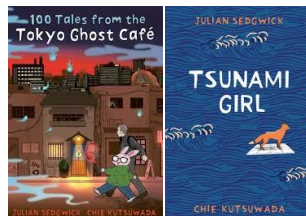
Tuesday 12th November

The Swindon Youth Festival of Literature is back!



- This year's **headline event** takes place at the Wyvern Theatre on Tuesday 12th November, with author Julian Sedgwick and his side-kick illustrator, Chie Kutsuwada. Together, they will bring the world of Manga alive!
- On Wednesday 13th November, intrepid Everest climber and Explorer, **Matt Dickinson**, will visit The Deanery. Matt will recount his thrilling adventures of climbing Everest and of exploring Antarctica. Twenty years of film making for National Geographic TV, Discovery Channel and the BBC has given him a wealth of fascinating real-life adventures to talk about and his video clips are breath-taking. His expeditions became the inspiration for his two award-winning (and Carnegie medal nominated) series 'Mortal Chaos' and 'The Everest Files.' Pupils are in for a treat!
- Our **Inter-school Book Quiz** finishes the week on Friday 15th November at The Ridgeway School. This is always a highly competitive event between the schools' bookworms. Last year's Deanery team were pipped to the post by Ridgeway School. Who will win this year's coveted trophy? It's all to play for!

Julian Sedgwick



Chie Kutsuwada



Key Stage 4

Pupils study both AQA English Language GCSE & English Literature GCSE in their Key Stage 4 English lessons.



English Language

- ❖ **Paper 1:** Reading & Writing (1hour 45 mins)
- ❖ **Paper 2:** Reading & Writing (1hour 45 mins)
- ❖ **Spoken Language:** students are required to present a talk to their class (filmed and moderated by AQA)

English Literature

- ❖ **Paper 1:** ('old' texts) 1 hour 45 mins
 - Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'
 - Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'
- ❖ **Paper 2:** (modern texts) 2 hour 15 mins
 - J. B. Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'
 - 15x Power & Conflict Poetry anthology poems
 - 2x unseen poems to analyse & then compare

We recognise that GCSE exams can be daunting. As such, we try to support pupils to prepare well, over the 2-year course, for exam success. School-based revision resources include:

School-based revision resources:

- ✓ **DNA** interleaved knowledge retrieval
- ✓ **Chanting** quotations at end of lessons
- ✓ **Knowledge Organizers:** key words, sentence stems & sentence starters, model examples (Standard vs. Excellent), essay structures/writing frames/structure strips
- ✓ **Enrichment GCSE Revision** 3:30-4:30pm Thursdays in 1-02 with Mrs. Mills
- ✓ **Tutor Time Intervention-** selected students

Key Stage 4 Homework

- Pupils must complete 45 minutes per week of Tassomai questions.
- Tassomai is an online homework platform, meaning 'Knowledge Organizer' in Old English; therefore, Tassomai covers lots of English language skills & literature content, in bite-sized chunks. Tassomai is proven to help pupils to retain lots of knowledge over a long period of time- making it a perfect long-term knowledge retention tool!
- Pupils have received a PowerPoint explaining how to log onto Tassomai via their Arbor accounts. Essentially, they must download the Tassomai app (or type the word 'Tassomai' into an internet search bar). To log-on, pupils must type their full school email address as a username, and then use the password 'SmartWayToStudy'. After that, pupils can change their password to a memorable individual password.



- ▶ In Year 11, pupils are given an extra exercise book, which is pink.
- ▶ Every Thursday week 1, Pink Book Homework will be set on Arbor- this homework will help prepare pupils for their Week 2 Thursday Test Day.
- ▶ The homework will initially contain a pre-written essay on a GCSE text for pupils to read as a model, and then annotate to spot essay writing skills.
At the bottom of this pre-written essay, will be a different essay question- this is the question that pupils will have to answer in their Thursday Test Day the following week
- ▶ Pupils will have a week to prepare for this test (e.g., gathering contextual info, quotations, and writing an essay plan, etc.) at home. They should make their plan in their pink homework book
- ▶ On Thursday Week 2, pupils will need to bring their pink homework book to school to write up their 'Test' (essay) in school
- ▶ Pupils will receive whole-class feedback & improvement tasks on their essay the following week
- ▶ As the year progresses, and as pupils become more confident with this process, we remove some of the scaffolds (e.g., the model essay) that is in place- so that pupils are gaining necessary independent revision skills.



Year 11 are working really well. We are really impressed with their diligence and determination to succeed!



Service

"... in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"

Introducing Our New Student Council: A Team Committed to Positive Change!

We are thrilled to introduce our new Student Council for the 2024-2025 academic year! This dynamic group of students is eager to bring fresh ideas and strong leadership to our school community. The Student Council plays a crucial role in representing student voices, organising events, and fostering school ethos of Deanery **PROUD**.

Mr Young has met them to congratulate them on their posts and they are ready to start meetings with the support of Mrs. Mobey and Miss. Byrne.



A big well done to our students who completed the Archbishop's Young Leaders Award last year. They were presented with their final awards in assemblies in September and received a certificate of recognition and a pin badge to proudly display on their school blazers. These students spent 2 large terms exploring what it means to be of 'service' to others and how we put the message of equality and social justice into action; following in the footsteps of Jesus. This group spent time completing their own individual volunteering projects, such as running the Race 4 Life in aid of Cancer Research UK or helping relatives; school community volunteering by visiting younger year groups and mentoring them; then we went out into the community and visited the residents of a local care home, where they spent time playing games with them and chatting, and also helping with some chores around the home. They are a shining example of **PROUD** and our school values in action.

Congratulations!

Mrs. Gallagher & Miss. Price



Resilience

"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me"

British Values
At The Deanery CE Academy

Mutual respect

Democracy Resilience The rule of law

Wisdom Service

Individual liberty Hope Tolerance

The Deanery CE ACADEMY

"A tree planted by streams of water... which yields its fruit in season" ~ Psalm 1:3

In modern Britain, there are certain things which form our identity as being British. They represent what we stand for as a society and underpin everything from how our government works to how our schools are run. The aim is to create a compassionate and safe society for us all to live in.

P resentation	We take pride in ourselves and how we present ourselves to others. We are thoughtful about the way we speak to each other. We are proud to contribute to and be a part of a tolerant and democratic society. We SERVE others as well as ourselves.
R espect	We interact with everyone with respect. We respect the beliefs and opinions of others, even if we do not agree with each other all the time. We take the time to listen to others.
O rganisation	We take pride in ourselves, our community and our environment. We have the freedom and the WISDOM to make good choices and organise ourselves so that we inspire and help each other.
U nderstanding	We understand how we can become successful independent learners. We are understanding of the diverse world around us and the needs of others as well as ourselves. We inspire HOPE for a better world through our words and actions.
D etermination	We have a go even when things get difficult. We persevere and don't just give up. We help build a community of belief and encouragement for all, and we learn from our mistakes and misconceptions. We show RESILIENCE . We stand up for what is right and just.

We continue to develop our personal development programme across the school and a part of this is our Values in Practice (ViP) curriculum. In term 1, in their ViP lessons, our students have been learning about:

- ✓ **Year 7 – Transition & safety** (What is secondary school like? Setting SMART targets; Personal safety; building good relationships)
- ✓ **Year 8 – Drugs & alcohol** (Making good choices; Information and knowledge is power; types of drugs; how substance abuse can have mental and physical effects on a person and those around them; staying safe)
- ✓ **Year 9 – Peer influence** (Making good choices; taking responsibility for our own actions; gangs; how to avoid peer pressure and say 'no'; Knife crime)
- ✓ **Year 10 – Mental health** (What is mental health? How to sustain good mental health; What to do when things feel like they're going wrong)
- ✓ **Year 11 – Building for the future** (Stress; Resilience; Building confidence and self-esteem)

Further information about our personal development programme, including links to careers, trips, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, enrichment and other personal development opportunities at The Deanery CE Academy is now live on our school website here: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/personal-development/>

This term was the annual Deanery dash running event, years 7-10 completed in the house competition where students in years 7 and 8 completed a 1.4km course while years 9 and 10 completed a 2.2km course. Students worked really hard throughout the event with some students finishing with some impressive times. We have some new school record holders which we have been invited to attend the Swindon school's cross-country event on the 16th of November at Nova Hreod Academy. A big well done to our first-place students below:

Year Group	Boys name	Time	Girls name	Time
Year 7	E Tate	06.33	Z Wozniakiewicz	08.04
Year 8	B Trybala-Lugembe	06.01	L Prosser	06.21
Year 9	B Sims	08.46	E Copeland	11.41
Year 10	C Stephenson-Kemp	08.45	C Prosser	09.15

Wisdom

"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding"

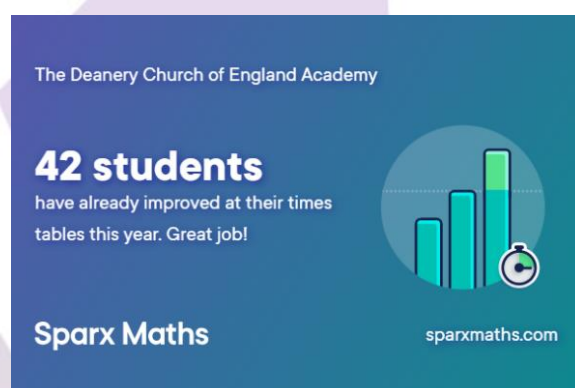
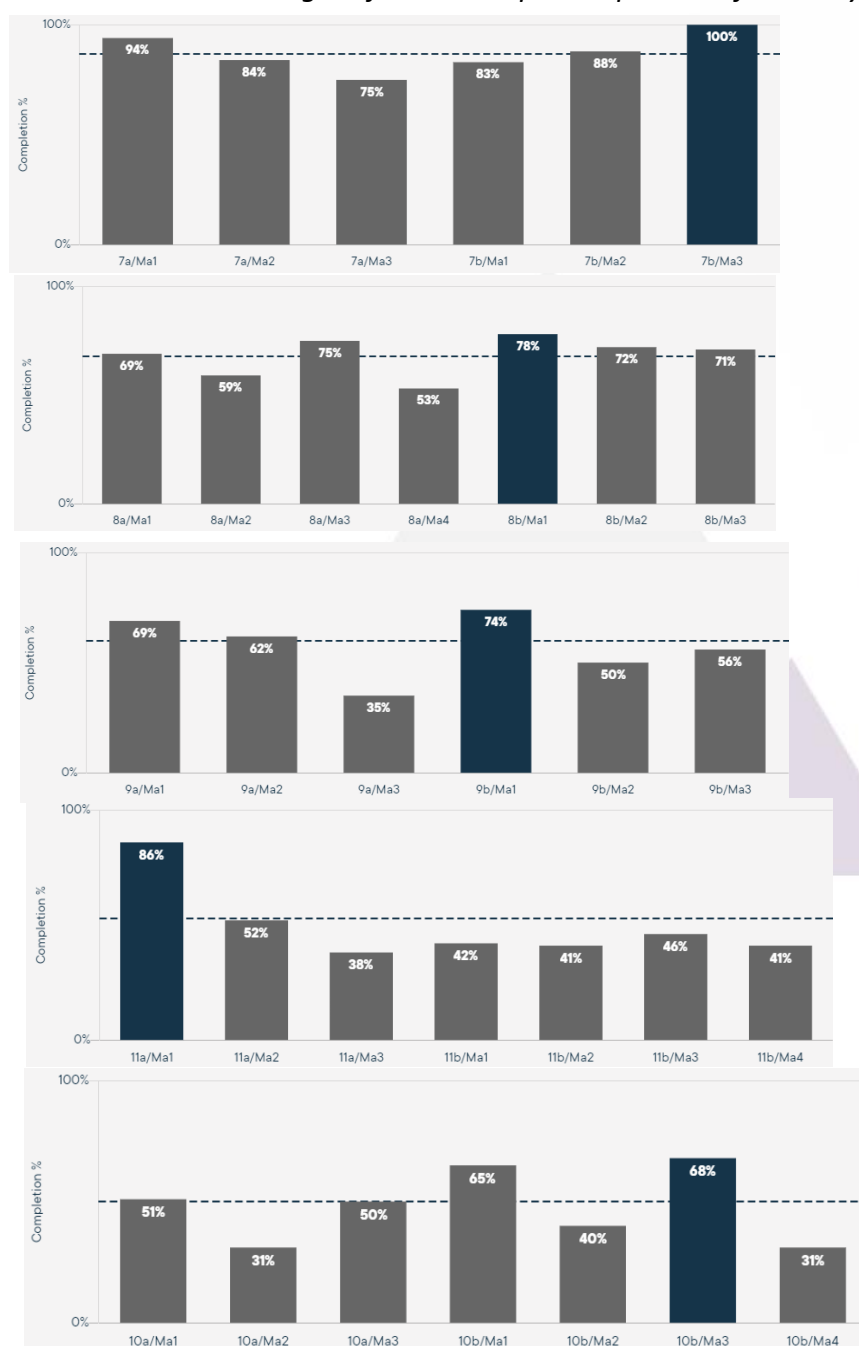
Sparx Maths

We have made an amazing start to the year with Sparx so far! Below are just some of the amazing statistics this year to date! We are also starting to incorporate Sparx certificates within our celebration assemblies this year so if you reach any multiple of 5 levels you will receive a certificate!

Highest XP level: M Busari (Level 239)

Most XP gained this year: R Osimosu (19778)

Below are the averages of 100% completion per class for each year group to date this year.



Hope

"I have come so that you may have life in all its fullness"

STEM Trip to London

From October 7th to 8th, 49 of our students from Years 9 & 10 had the incredible opportunity to immerse themselves in the wonders of science and London's rich culture. The trip kicked off with a visit to the Science Museum, where the students were captivated by the interactive exhibits in the Wonderlab. They engaged with hands-on experiments that brought scientific concepts to life. After a fun-filled afternoon, everyone unwound with a friendly game of bowling.

The next day, we visited *Centre of the Cell*, a unique science education centre. Here, students participated in various interactive activities and were thrilled to observe real scientists working in a live lab setting. The experience sparked many conversations about careers in science and how research impacts our daily lives.

Before concluding our trip, we explored Spitalfields and Borough Markets, giving the students a taste of London's diverse food and culture. Our final stop was the Natural History Museum, where students marvelled at the iconic exhibits and reflected on the fascinating journey through the realms of science.

Jess wrote *"In London we looked and experienced all sorts of amazing science activities and museums. My personal favourite was the wonder lab in the science museum where we could look at all forms of science and have a hands-on experience threw fun games, crazy activities, or demonstrations. Although, being in the cell workshop was incredible and really immersive! Then being able to see actual people doing actual science experiments below you was really inspiring."*

Miss. Wright



TPAT Scholars Trips to Marlborough College

Some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit Marlborough College as part of the TPAT Scholars Program. Along with other TPAT schools, our students spent the day learning new subjects and meeting new people.

During the trip, students took part in lessons on Chinese, computing and economics. They really enjoyed the chance to learn something different. Tansy said, *"Visiting Marlborough College was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that really changed my view on school. I learnt Chinese and Economics by some amazing teachers."*

The Chinese lesson was a big hit. Rueben shared, *"We were taught to introduce ourselves and count to 100 in Chinese! The teacher was kind and understood the subject well."* Billy added, *"I thought it was so much fun! I loved learning and counting to 100 in Chinese. I would love to come again."*

Alongside Chinese, students also tried out an Economics class. Lowri said, *"When we went to Marlborough College, we learnt Chinese and Economics and met some lovely people."* Ella noticed the setting, saying, *"The classroom we were in for Economics was very nicely decorated, it had historical buildings and people on the notice boards. It was so cool!"*

The students had a great day, learning new things and making friends with students from other schools. We're excited to take part in more trips like this in the future, offering more students the chance to have these amazing experiences. *Stay tuned for more updates!*

What have we been celebrating this term?



Tolerance

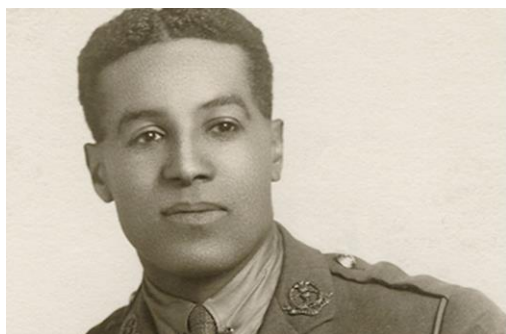


Mutual respect



Individual liberty

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



What is Black History Month?

Every October in the UK since 1987, the country has celebrated Black History Month, a month dedicated to remembering the contributions of people from African and Caribbean heritage to our country's history.

This year's theme for Black History Month is "Reclaiming Narratives", and marks a significant shift towards recognising and correcting the narratives of Black history and culture. In assembly we explored the life of Walter Tull, the first black outfield player in the premier league, the first British-born black army officer and he first black officer to lead a white British troop into battle during WW1. In music, Year 7 and 8 have attended some really exciting (and loud!) workshops on South African drumming.

DIWALI 2024

31ST OCTOBER

Diwali is India's biggest festival of the year!

For Hindus, Diwali is as special as Christmas is to Christians

The festival gets its name from the row of lamps that light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from darkness

This term our students received an assembly about Diwali from the RE department and the theatre was turned into a sea of light!

Find out more about the festival of light here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Niy1XYspVfg>



Rewards

The following students have already received tie pins after being nominated by students - a massive congratulations to them all:

- **Gethin (Yr11)** - fantastic speech given at open evening
- **David (Yr11)** - performing for visitors at open evening
- **Lourdes (Yr10)** - performing for visitors at open evening
- **Jess (Yr10)** - fantastic speech given at open evening
- **Aj (Yr9)** - helping others outside of school in the wider community
- **Rueben (Yr8)** - showing Deanery **PROUD** in everything he does and striving to progress
- **Siddhi (Yr8)** - demonstrates every lesson commitment and determination to Geography and asks for extension work every lesson to continue to challenge herself
- **Marvelous (Yr8)** - Always gives 100% effort in every task and shows Deanery **PROUD** consistently.



Students have already been given over 43500 house points this term!

These are all related to aspects of Deanery **PROUD**

We are so pleased to see the commitment to their learning and positive behaviour for learning.

Year 11 Preparation for Exams:

This is a vital year for our Year 11 students, however, during the pre-public (mock) and public examination periods, your son/daughter may become increasingly stressed and anxious and this is often heightened for those with special educational needs. For tips to help beat exam stress:

<https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>

It can be difficult to know what and how to revise, one tool that can be incredibly useful to support learners is retrieval practice. This will help your son/daughter to build their memory of key information over time:

<https://nasen-prod-asset.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Retrieval%20practice%20and%20pupils%20with%20SEND%2030.08.22.pdf>

Mindfulness exercises can also support student wellbeing during this time. Please see below for strategies and tools that may be useful to help you to support your son/daughter:

<https://my.optimus-education.com/supporting-wellbeing-pupils-send>



The SEND dept is offering additional support to all year 11 students with SEND, including a 'How to cope with Year 11' intervention (including sessions on how to improve our mental health and different ways to revise). This intervention is invite-only to ensure a high staff to student ratio, however, please do email me if you would like your son/daughter to be invited.

Vision Impaired support

As part of our ongoing CPD all staff regularly receive focused SEND training as we work hard to keep up to date with how we can best support the needs of our students. This term we have had training from the local authority on how we can support students who may be visually impaired and strategies we can support them with in an educational setting.

Clubs and interventions

As part of our period 6 day, the SEND department offers the following clubs and interventions between 3.30 – 4.30

Homework Support – for both Key Stage 3 and 4 – every Tuesday and Thursday

EAL support – every Weds

Zones of Regulation – every Weds

Games Club – every Weds

Lego-based therapy – every Thurs



The above are **invite-only** to ensure a high staff to student ratio, however, please do email me if you would like your son/daughter to be invited.

Fiddle toys

We have also introduced school-approved fiddle toys. Only these toys will be permitted. Students will be given one free and will be expected to take responsibility of their fiddle toy by ensuring the item is in school and used appropriately in lessons. Should they lose or break their fiddle toy, they will be expected to purchase another one. If you think your son/daughter needs a fiddle toy, please do email me. I will issue them one and add their name to our list.



Parental meetings

Please note that parental meetings will be held Monday - Wednesday, ***via appointment only***, unless it is an urgent matter.

Dr. Kafka-Markey

Email address: kafka-markeyc@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk

Further support

The SEND Information, Advice and Support service (SIAS) provides information, advice and support about education, health and social care for children and young people from 0-25 with SEND, as well as their parents or carers. You do not need to have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan to use the service:

<https://www.swindonsias.org.uk/info/15/home/19/contact>



Inspiring Creativity: Local artist collaborates with year 11 GCSE art students on the theme of Colour

This term, year 11 GCSE Art students had a unique opportunity to work closely with a professional artist as part of their studies. The artist, Paul Deacon, shared his personal journey as an artist, inspirations and innovative techniques as he worked with students in an exciting foundation for their project focused on the theme of colour. The collaboration aimed to inspire students, encouraging them to experiment with colour theory, deepen their understanding of artistic technique and develop their own creative voices.

Working with a professional artist has given our students a new perspective on what's possible in their own artistic practice.

Miss. Pickles – Head of faculty for the creative Arts

Welcome to the Careers section

Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme

Help your child to explore their future.

To ready our students for an ever-changing world, this academic year I am excited to inform you that we are using Xello – *an innovative digital careers platform that has now replaced the Start programme.*

Xello will help your child to explore and prepare for their future career as well as develop their personal profile that will support their transition through education and in to employment.

Each year group studies careers during the academic year. A specific term will be chosen for each year group to coincide with important dates and events.

This academic year, Careers Education lessons will be taking place as follows:

Year 7: Term 5 **Year 8:** Term 4 **Year 9:** Term 3 **Year 10:** Term 5 & 6 **Year 11:** Term 2 & 3

The Careers Programme focuses on 7 main themes:

- Career Basics,
- Self-awareness,
- Work experience
- Applying for a job
- Moments of choice
- Skills
- Exploring the labour market

Further Education Assemblies

Cirencester College have been in to deliver an assembly to our Year 11 students about all that they have to offer and what life is like to study at their campus. This will be followed up by an assembly from New College on the 9th December on apprenticeships and courses that students can study at one of their campuses. Years 9 and 10 students will be having this later on in the year. On the 9th December an apprenticeships expert will be coming in to speak to Year 10 and 11 students about apprenticeships, what they are, and how to apply for them.

Cirencester College have an open day this Saturday 19th October. Year 11 students have all been sent the sign-up link and information to their school email.

NHS Visit

Year 11's had an informative talk from the NHS about all the various jobs that you could do in the NHS. Being the Town's biggest employer students were surprised at all the job roles that were available through the NHS and the amount that didn't involve treating patients too! Apprenticeships were discussed and pathways to get into an NHS career were explained to the students. Other year groups can expect this informative talk in the near future.



New College Swindon 'Experience Days'

Year 10 students will be able to sign up for a 'taster day' at either Queens Drive or North Star campuses. This is being planned for late June 2025 and students will be able to sign up through their tutor group sessions. It will be an excellent chance to sample life as an FE student, engaging in a range of 'A' Level, 'T' Level, or other Level 2 or Level 3 equivalent subjects, along with discovering the excellent facilities available at these campuses.



Cirencester College 'Post-16 Choices Day'

On Monday July 7th 2025, Year 10 students have been given the opportunity to experience life as a student at Cirencester College. The day will be focused on students wanting to study 'A' Level, 'T' Level or BTEC Level 3 programmes. Cirencester College are providing transport to and from the College and it will be a full day leaving at 8.30am and arriving back at School for 3.30pm. Please encourage your child to sign up with their tutors.



TPAT Experience Day

On the 6th November some of our Key Stage 4 students will be experiencing a 6th form day at Lydiard Park Academy. They will be sampling lessons, meeting staff and students and immersing themselves in 6th form life.



Appren-T-Fest 2025

We will be taking Year 11 students to Appren-T-Fest on Tuesday 11th February at the Steam Museum in Swindon. Students have been invited to sign up, but please encourage your child to attend if they have an interest in apprenticeships. It will be from 1-3pm and there will be lots of employers in attendance, guest speakers, Colleges and 6th form providers giving out invaluable information about opportunities post-16.



Calling all parents!

As valued members of the school community, we would like to ask any parents who are happy to share their career journey to get in touch. We would like to put together some career workshops, with a diverse range of occupations so students can discover more about the world of work.



If you are willing to help, please get in touch! My email is HinsonB@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk

Alternatively, you can contact Ms. Godfrey who is the deputy careers lead at GodfreyK@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk

We have a number of exciting projects underway. This includes an Army Day for Year 9, an Education and Business Partnership Day workshop for Year 11's and a Year 11 taster session at Commonweal 6th form. We will keep you updated in the next newsletter.

Mr. Hinson – Careers Leader

Science careers news

For the first time we have introduced some of our year 9 and 10 students to The Brightside Trust as part of STEM. The trust offers 1:1 online, personalised mentoring where students can talk through a secure platform to an approved and trained mentor; about their future study, employment and career options. This program runs for 10 weeks. Students can message their mentor at any time during the 10-week mentoring period and mentors will reply as soon as they can. Conversations take place via text-based messaging, a bit like email, so mentors and mentees do not need to be online at the same time. We hope in the future to have many more students involved in this program. We are really proud of the students who have taken the leap to be our first and will be getting feedback from them about how useful they have found this wonderful opportunity.

Do not worry If you missed out this time, the next round of mentoring begins in February, we will be registering the next round of students In November. If you are in year 9 and above and want to be put forward for the mentoring program, we will be giving details of this next half term.

Chaplaincy update



Halloween has a tradition in the Christian Church predating pumpkins and scary costumes, to a time when it was used to remember those who had died. It was a way of honouring their memory, of remembering them. This tradition has largely evaporated from civic life, partly I suppose, because of our lack of ease at acknowledging death and loss in a culture which celebrates youth, health and wealth. Yet all of us at some stage confront the grief of loss and having tools to do so can help us navigate these choppy waters.

Different faith traditions have each developed ways of viewing and understanding death and of dealing with loss and grief. As a Christian I draw on the example of Jesus, who on finding that his friend Lazarus had died broke down in tears and wept, and I find comfort in the honesty of the poet who writes, *'I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow,'* and in Jesus' death and resurrection I am confronted by the brutality of death, and of God's power to bring life, even in death.

So, as we approach 'All Hallows Eve' and on in to Remembrance Day on the 11/11 I offer us this prayer to help us to remember and find a way through the challenging emotions of loss and grief:

*'Loving, gracious God, today we will face all that most concerns us:
our fears, the shadowed places of the mind;
the coming of winter darkness;
the cold thin place between waking and sleep.*

We remember, and by your help we may give thanks, for each of our loved ones whom we remember today, for all the ways in which their lives touched ours, for the difficult as well as the good times, for the ways in which their lives and their love continue to be with us. In our sadness and with thanksgiving, we will remember them.

*As we remember those who have died, we also remember those whose hold on life is precarious. We call to mind the powerless, the lonely,
those who most fear the knock at the door;
all those deceived by the world's empty promises;
all those cowed by menaces or threats.
We stand with those weak in body, mind or spirit
and those seduced by treats or hurt by tricks.
Lord, your light shines into every darkness.
You told us to pray 'deliver us from evil' and so we do.*



Lord God we pray for peace in our world, and we remember particularly Russia and Ukraine, Gaza, Israel and Lebanon. We pray not just for an ending of the way of the bomb and the bullet, but for a building of peace and a bringing back together into wholeness all the things that have become fractured and broken.

*Your Spirit with us gives us hope, gives us courage,
a candle in the window unhurt by the wind.'*

If remembering is difficult for you and you would like to speak to me, you are welcome to get in touch. My email is: green@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk

Peace be with you.

Owen Green
Campus chaplain

Introducing Our Pastoral Team: Supporting Student Success

We are delighted to introduce the dedicated pastoral team at our school, working tirelessly to ensure every student feels supported, cared for, and empowered to succeed both academically and personally. Led by our experienced **Assistant Headteacher, Ms. Parry**, who is responsible for behaviour for learning and overseeing the pastoral system, this team is committed to creating a positive environment for all students.

Year 11: Mr. McEachron & Mr. Marriner

As students prepare for their final year of school and their GCSE exams, **Mr. McEachron** and **Mr. Marriner** are here to provide guidance, support, and encouragement to help Year 11 students manage the challenges of this crucial year. Their experience and dedication will help ensure our students are set up for success in their exams and future aspirations.

Year 10: Ms. Penny-Larter & Miss. Byrne

For Year 10 students, **Ms. Penny-Larter**, Head of Year 10, along with **Miss. Byrne**, play a vital role in supporting academic progress and personal development. They work closely with students to help them stay on track and build the resilience needed for their journey toward Year 11 and beyond.

Year 9: Mr. Halpin & Mrs. Mobey

Our Year 9 students are in great hands with **Mr. Halpin** and **Mrs. Mobey** overseeing their pastoral care. This year is a time of important choices and personal growth, and both staff members are dedicated to helping students make informed decisions about their future academic pathways.

Year 8: Miss. Esposito & Miss. McKinlay

Year 8 is a time of transition and self-discovery, and **Miss. Esposito** and **Miss. McKinlay** work closely with students to ensure they develop good study habits, maintain strong friendships, and feel supported in every aspect of school life. Their proactive approach ensures students feel confident and engaged.

Year 7: Mr. Cameron-Larelle & Mrs. Coe

Starting secondary school is a significant step, and our Year 7 students are guided by **Mr. Cameron-Larelle**, Head of Year 7, with the support of **Mrs. Coe**. Together, they ensure that every new student settles in smoothly, develops a love of learning, and feels fully integrated into our school community.

Our pastoral team is an integral part of school life, committed to fostering a supportive and caring environment for all students. If you have any questions or need guidance, please don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the team. We look forward to working together to help every student thrive!



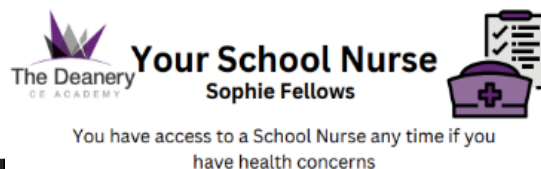
On Tuesday 8th October, Wiltshire Police in conjunction with NHS professionals, led an informative and important workshop to all Year 9 students on knife crime awareness and keeping safe in the local community. This was called ***The Blunt Truth***, and these were hour long sessions, delivered to teach children about the possible life-long consequences of carrying a knife and what to do if a friend or family member is stabbed. The workshops also encourage young people to report through their school, the police or through **FEARLESS** (*youth arm of Crimestoppers*), if someone they know is carrying a knife.

Whilst the majority of young people won't ever be directly involved in knife crime, these sessions supported their awareness of the dangers of carrying knives and gave them the right tools to make the right decision should they ever need to.

The Blunt Truth is being delivered to schools across the whole of the county and the initiative is part-funded by the Office of the police and Crime Commissioner. The engagement and participation in every workshop delivered were noted as mature and astute, and the visitors stated how impressed they were with all Deanery students; more so than any other school they had visited. ***A huge well done to Year 9.***



Notices



You have access to a School Nurse any time if you have health concerns

Your School Nurse can Support:

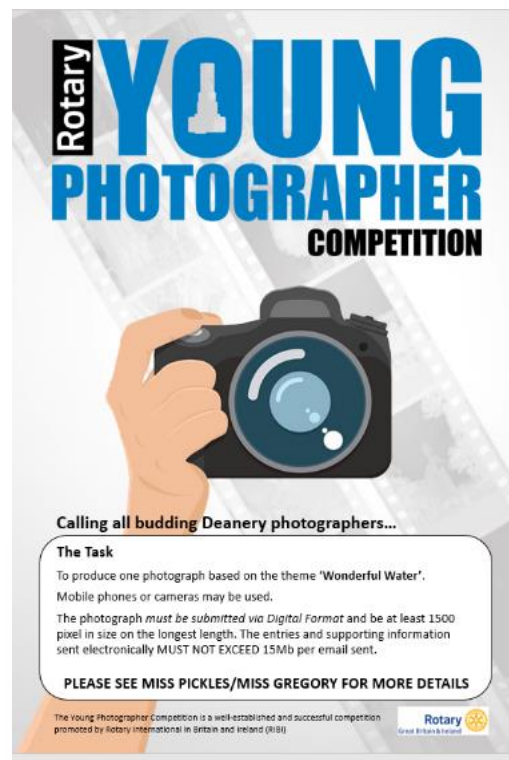
- Physical, Emotional and Mental Health
- Healthy Relationships Sexual
- Health Routine, including sleep
- Development
- School Transition Healthy
- Lifestyles Continence issues
- Immunisations
- Dental hygiene
- General hygiene issues
- Access to specialist services
- Healthy Eating Exam Stress

The School Nurse Service is:

1. Confidential
2. Non-Judgemental
3. Run by Specialist Nurses

How do I contact the School Nurse?

Ask a teacher at school to refer you to the SEN Department
Teacher to email Wendy Lemasson or Jannet Griffin to refer.



Whole School Attendance to date: 92%

Your child should attend school a minimum of **95%** of the time. *Why?*

- Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing.
- 36% of PA (attending less than 90%) children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs, compared with 84% of regular attenders.
- In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent (attending less than 90%) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who regularly attended school.
- In the 2022/23 academic year, of those who had at least one day of absence in the first week of term, 55.5% went on to be persistently absent.

The **GOOD NEWS** ... It's never too late too late to benefit from good attendance!

- More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years

Please have a look at your child's attendance today, if they are attending less than 90%, please contact us. The attendance team will be offering appointments to those students who are below 90%.

Illness - with the weather changing we are all subject to coughs and colds, please do not let this deter your child from school.



The NHS and the Chief Medical Officer say it is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. The NHS [is my child too ill for school](#) guidance and the [Letter from Chief Medical Officer Chris Witty relating to school attendance and illness](#) highlights prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending school in the future.

Executive Principal: Mr J Young

Vice Principals: Ms L Connors and Mr D McDonald

Tel: 01793 236611

Email: admin@deaneryceacademy.org.uk

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Important notice: We understand that sometimes face to face meetings will be required between staff and parents/guardians. However, we respectfully request that these are pre-arranged and booked in with the relevant staff, and that parents/guardians **do not just arrive at the Academy** and expect staff to be available for a meeting. Please contact the members of staff via the academy email: admin@deaneryceacademy.org.uk in the first instance to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for your support with this.

Dates for the diary

A copy of the term dates calendar is available on our website: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/school-information/term-dates/>

- 10th November** – Wroughton Remembrance service & parade
- 11th November** – DCEA Remembrance service
- 11th November** – GCSE Photography trip
- 11th – 22nd November** – Year 11 GCSE mock exams
- 12th November** – TPAT 6th form open evening (*LPA*)
- 13th – 15th November** – GCSE Geography field trip to Swanage
- 28th November** – GCSE performance evening
- 29th November** – SEND coffee morning (*9am – 10am*)
- 5th December** – Year 10 subject consultation evening (*4pm – 7pm*)
- 12th December** – Community Christingle (*5pm – 6pm*)
- 17th December** – Christmas concert
- 19th December** – Year 11 subject consultation evening (*4pm – 7pm*)

A reminder: For queries, please use the main Academy email address: admin@deaneryceacademy.org.uk and your email will be *forwarded* to the appropriate person.

We aim to acknowledge all emails **within 2 working days**, and to respond in full (*or arrange a meeting or phone call if appropriate*) within 5 working days.

If you feel your query requires an urgent response, please call the academy.

Our communication policy can be found here: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/important-information/policies/>