



Dear Parents and Carers,

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Richard Brand: Headteacher

We hope that you and your families are all safe and well and that you have been able to enjoy the glorious weather we are having at the moment.

Thank you for all you have continued to do in order to support students home learning this week. Staff have been really impressed by the number of students completing and sending them work and are awarding positive points on Class Charts accordingly. Please remember that if your child is finding something difficult, their teacher is just at the end of an email and will be happy to help. All staff email addresses are on the school's website and we are aiming to reply to all emails within twenty four hours. You can also access IT support through the website, should you need to. Please inform us at info@thedeanacademy.org if you have any questions or general concerns about the work being set. Please also use this email address if you are a keyworker and need to contact us for your child to be in school next week.

Over the next week, your child may be contacted by staff if they have not been submitting work. Please remind students to check information given by individual teachers around sending work back; for Year 10 this will be a minimum of once a fortnight, while for Years 7 – 9 this may be less frequently but at least once a term. However, we are always keen to see work which students are really proud of, so please do encourage students to send in photographs or copies of work or activities around the home which we can celebrate.

Many students have also been accessing the Well-being section of Class Charts, keeping us up to date with how they are feeling at home. This is an easy way for a student to request support from their tutor or Head of Year and staff are monitoring this daily. Please use this facility to alert us to anyone who might benefit from a chat with a member of the pastoral team and some support regarding managing their time or health. There is also a weekly published Well-being Bulletin sent to students via Class Charts which offers support for working from home, physical and mental health and some ideas of challenges and tasks to keep them busy. We also regularly post information on our school Twitter account, so please follow us @TheDeanAcademy.

Finally, please can we draw your attention to an increasing number of sources of support for families and students during the current lockdown. The School Nursing Team have launched ChatHealth, a confidential way 11-19yr olds can have a text conversation with one of our school nurses about any health issue, worry or concern they may have. When schools are shut and students don't have their usual pastoral support, this service can be of great benefit to allay anxieties and emotional distress. Further information and guidance for students on the School Nursing Webpage which can be found here <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/school-nursing/cyp-info/>. There is also a link on the school webpage to a document listing family support available in the Forest, ranging from housing support, Food Bank information and support for families with young children. All information from Forest Extra can be found here https://thedeanacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Forest_Extra_23.04.20.pdf.

Once again, we are incredibly grateful for all that you are doing to support continued learning at home in these exceptional times.

Please continue to look at the school website or Twitter account for regular updates.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Smith
Acting Headteacher

Declan Mooney
Acting Headteacher

