

1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, may we thank you all for your hard work and everything that you are doing to help support your children at the moment. We understand how hard it is juggling schoolwork, home life and maintaining positive physical and mental health at this time and we are so grateful for all the contact you have had with all staff.

As you aware, teaching staff use Class Charts to set work but all staff are able to use it to record students' achievement and it is one of the best parts of our jobs being able to do so. As you are now part of the teaching team, we would like to invite you to also reward your child's effort and achievement and we have enabled the Parents' Reward icon on your Class Charts login for this purpose. There are two choices here, either to reward their schoolwork or to recognise the work they are doing outside of the "classroom" at home. This could be daily exercise, setting and meeting challenges, looking after their mental health or supporting you and wider family members. Please use these to help us see how they are getting on and we will acknowledge these efforts when we return to school. If you are unsure how to log on to Class Charts or require a new login code, please visit the school website and request support via the IT Support Form.

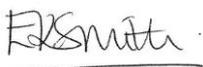
We will also continue to recognise student effort by sending home postcards and awarding positive points on Class Charts. Please remember, Year 10 students should be regularly sending work to their teachers wherever possible for feedback. If your child is in Year 7, 8 or 9 then please collate their work at home; they will be asked to send in work by subject teachers over the next few weeks so we can complete assessments.

As you are aware, there has been a lot of discussion around home-schooling in the news of the last week. The government scheme around laptops for students has been well-covered in the media and once we have been informed of our allotted number, we will use the criteria to distribute these accordingly.

Free School Meal vouchers have also been widely discussed as some codes nationally have failed to work. If you have a voucher and the code fails, please contact Mr Mooney by email (declan.mooney@thedeanacademy.org) and we will provide a replacement code. If you as a family would like to discuss applications for Free School Meal vouchers because of a change in recent circumstances, please refer to our website or email Mr Mooney directly. Our website also contains information on local services who may be available to support your family if this is required for any reason; this can all be found in the Safeguarding section of the Parent/Carer page online.

The government announced yesterday that they intend to review the current lockdown procedures and we will, of course, keep you notified about any changes to the current situation as and when we can. We all miss students and the buzz of a normal school day hugely and will do everything we can to ensure that the whole of our community is safe when school returns to normal. In the meantime, we hope that you and your families are all safe and well.

With very best wishes,



Emily Smith
Acting Head Teacher



Declan Mooney
Acting Head Teacher

