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Richard Brand: Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy term it has been for all of you! Thank you, and well done, we know it is hard to teach your own children, work and keep everything going within your household and we are incredibly grateful for everything that you have done over the last term. Your mental health is important and we as a school have been providing support through Class Charts for your children, so now we would like to focus on you. As a true community school, we are here to support you as much as the young people we teach, so please do get in touch if we can help. There is a lot of support on the website which we can talk to you about and we are trying to offer as much support for physical and mental health on the school's Twitter feed, please follow us @TheDeanAcademy to access these.

Yesterday, we released our provisional plans for students in Year 10. Our number one priority is to maintain safety for all our community and our plans are based on the continuation of online learning. We are developing our use of technology and some faculties are now trialling adding video clips of themselves into presentations with more direct instructions and explanations of tasks. As teachers we will be asking for students to upload work to us, this is to check understanding and for teachers to adapt what is being set. Our Year 10s will begin to have some face to face time with teachers during June, however we cannot be certain of the date as we are awaiting confirmation from the government, which will be released on the 28th May. After this date we will be sending out more information. Can we ask all Year 10 parents if you have not received an email for us to email info@thedeanacademy.org as we do not hold your current email on our system. We will then be in touch with our provisional plans.

Our virtual transition process continues for incoming Year 7 students in September. If you have a child joining us next year, we have updated our website again with a video from our current Year 7 students answering some questions sent in by their peers in Year 6. We hope this will elevate any worries. Over the next few weeks we will be sending out more information and will use our Transition Twitter page to keep in touch.

Year 10 work experience is normally an invaluable experience for our students to gain an insight to the world of work. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 will are having to cancel this for our students. We will be looking at possible opportunities for our students to engage with employers in the future, ensuring they have strong focus on Careers education and support throughout Year 11. If you have any questions about this, please email Mr Mooney in school.

Finally SSC have produced a wellbeing video around keeping safe for your family to enjoy. We are already planning the next contact from staff, hopefully to release in a few weeks. You can see the video of Blinding Lights on the school YouTube page at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRqaCTY_Bvo

Keep safe and enjoy your half term

Emily Smith
Acting Headteacher
EKS/DBM/TW – Parent Carer update-220520

Declan Mooney
Acting Headteacher

