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Richard Brand: Headteacher

29th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you have all had a relaxing and restful half term, managing to enjoy some of the glorious weather we have been having. For staff, students and families it was very well deserved! As we look ahead to the last term of the year, we are continuing to put in plans for supporting home learning for the majority of school, alongside a plan for some face-to-face contact with Year 10 students and we are hugely grateful for your ongoing support in both of these areas.

Work packs for the final term are now printed and will be ready for collection from Monday if you have requested one. These packs contain work for the next seven weeks, so please be aware of the need to pace students to avoid them feeling overwhelmed. Staff will begin to put lessons on Class Charts from next Monday and we ask you to support your child as they re-engage with learning from home. We have a student survey which will be on Class Charts from Monday, where we will be asking students their opinions and using this to refine the work set. Please encourage your child to complete this so we can tailor work being set to fully meet their needs. We understand that students have been working this way for a long time now and that, for some, the pressure may be starting to show. If your child needs any support, please contact their tutor or Head of Year (email addresses on the website) and they will be happy to support you.

Since we wrote to you last week about plans for Year 10, the government has issued further detail on how schools should approach the face-to-face support for these students. Indeed, one Head Teacher calculated that school leaders across the country have received no fewer than 40 different pieces of guidance in the last fortnight. The latest guidance means that some small changes need to be made to our initial plan and parents and carers in Year 10 will hear from us next week regarding the impact of this latest government guidance. What we do know, however, is that no students other than those already in school will be returning on Monday 8th June as they made it clear that no secondary student should be in school before Monday 15th June. We will write to you all next week with more information. Thank you so much for all your support and understanding with this as we work within constantly changing guidelines.

One of the highlights of our school calendar is our Sports Day, which we obviously cannot complete this year. However, the PE Department will be sending out information regarding a virtual Sports Day over the coming weeks and we would love to see students being active and sending pictures of them competing in so we can display our efforts in school for when we return.

Finally, please remember that one of our school's three values is 'community' and we are keen to support all aspects of this as the lockdown continues. The school's foodbank continues to run; if



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you or your family would benefit from accessing this, either as an emergency or on a more long term basis, please email emily.smith@thedeanacademy.org to arrange to come in to school. There is also information regarding a wide range of other support we can offer as a school if you or your family need support for any reason on our website, which we update regularly. Please look in the Parent section of the Shutdown section or email declan.mooney@thedeanacademy.org for more information.

From Monday 1st June, our new Headteacher, Mr Richard Brand, will be joining the school and so we would both like to thank you all for your support and hard work at home during the last term as we have been Acting Head Teacher. Please enjoy the final weekend of half term safely in the sun.

Best wishes,

Emily Smith
Acting Headteacher

Declan Mooney
Acting Headteacher

EKS/DBM/TW – Parent carer update-290520



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