

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst the weather has been a little disappointing, given what we have become used to recently, I do hope you've had a good week.

Despite being "closed", it has been a remarkably busy week here at school, with much to celebrate, and lots to keep you informed of:

1. From Monday we will welcome the first of our year 10s back on site. We are delighted they are returning, and we are expecting around 70% of our cohort to come through our gates over the first week. We have written separately to year 10 families with some final reminders. To our year 10s, we look forward to seeing you soon!
2. Over the last few days our staff have been collecting the best examples of student work they have received. We are delighted to share with you, attached, our first edition of "Bright Spots". I think you will agree the range and quality of the work that our children are producing is truly exceptional. We had so many submissions we've only been able to show you a fraction of it!
3. Next week the PE team at Dean Academy are launching "Sports Week 2020". Throughout the week students in all year groups will be set a range of tasks and challenges, all requiring no equipment. Please encourage your child to get behind this initiative and send in their entries showing off their sporting skills off!
4. Tracking Engagement – Whilst in some ways it is understandable, we are noticing a decline in the engagement from our young people accessing and submitting work as part of our learning from home package. We recognise how challenging it must be for both our students and parents, with our school doors being shut for such a long time now. However, I am determined to make sure we do everything we can as a school to ensure our learners stay engaged, are set exciting work and receive regular contact from their teachers. Over the coming weeks, let by our Head of Years, staff will be getting in touch with families to check in on students, and offer additional support where we know children are struggling working from home.
5. Our foodbank is still open. Teachers and support staff at the Academy are continuing to collect items and if your circumstances have changed, or your family is struggling financially due to COVID-19 and you need some help, please reach out via info@thedeanacademy.org.
6. Finally, we have had 22 expressions of interest from current year 10 students to be considered for a role on next year's student council. I am delighted to receive so many applications and I think it is positive that so many of our young people want to be involved in shaping the direction of their school. Students will be involved in remote "hustings" next week and the school council will be elected following this.

Have a lovely weekend,
Kind regards



Richard Brand
Headteacher

