

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we near the end of the third week of this term and I reflect on all we have achieved, I am incredibly proud of our staff, students and our community for persevering through these difficult times. This week we have been delighted to welcome back more students through our gates whilst those learning from home have continued to complete some excellent work. In this bulletin I wanted to share with you some of the great things that have been happening both at the Academy/at home but also give you some important messages.

**Y10 return to school** – We have had an excellent first week of on-site provision for our returning year 10s. Student feedback has been hugely positive, with them commenting on how much they have enjoyed being back and how they have welcomed some well-needed teacher input! Attendance has been excellent, and word spread of the free lunch! We look forward to seeing you all again next week.

**Bright Spots week 2** – After another busy week with lots to celebrate and huge amounts of excellent work continuing to be completed at home, we have collected some of the very best in our student bulletin. In addition, this week our PE team have launched the hugely successful “SportsWeek 2020” initiative. They set events throughout the week and our students completed challenges and sent in videos of their best efforts. You’ll see some images of the entries within the document.

**Mental Health** - A new mental health service, “Kooth”, was launched very recently, on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. It is available to young people aged between 11 and 18 years in Gloucestershire. This is part of a range of new services being introduced to help those in the county that have been, or are being, affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Kooth is an online digital platform that provides access to self care resources, information, peer support and access to trained counsellors. It is open to anyone experiencing issues with their emotional wellbeing, such as stress or anxiety and there is no need to be referred – you can access Kooth here <https://www.kooth.com/>.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/covid-19-information-and-advice/advice-on-covid-19/looking-after-your-wellbeing/mental-health-services/>

**Community** - 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:declan.mooney@thedeanacademy.org) for more information.

**Online Lessons** – From July, across the Athelstan trust, we are looking to trial online lessons. Following our student survey from a few weeks ago, where students indicated they found live lessons and tutorial videos helped them with their studies, we are looking to move this forward. We will be sending instructions out via class-charts to students around how this will work we will begin training our teachers next week. We plan for this to begin, initially on a small scale, from w/b 29<sup>th</sup> June. Getting our students used to online lessons will also help us build a more robust position for whatever September brings.

Wishing you and your family an excellent weekend,  
Kind regards



**Richard Brand**

