

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you with my first parent bulletin having taken up post as Headteacher this Monday. It has certainly been a busy week here at the Academy with lots going on both on site and remotely!

Despite the very difficult times we are facing I have been delighted to see how our young people, even with the obvious challenges, are taking such a determined approach to their studies. I have been shown by colleagues some superb pieces of work submitted electronically by your children, and their engagement has been excellent. As we move forward through this long summer term, and plans for when might be able to fully re-open are still unclear, I must ask for your continued support to make sure your child continues to work to the schedule we've set out for them, completes the work to the best of their ability and importantly, submits it electronically to their teacher. Your continued support on this is invaluable – thank you.

In addition, we have a number of other updates and messages which we want you to be aware of:

- We know that children in years 7 to 9 will not be in school before September at the earliest. With this in mind we want to ensure that children get the very best online learning experience we can provide! Earlier this week we sent home a short survey which has now been completed by over 300 children. The results of this have been really encouraging and also given us some clear ideas to take forward. Please may I ask that if your child has not yet completed the survey they do so as soon as possible.
- During half term the Government alongside the Department for Education announced new advice and guidance for schools due to partially re-open for children in year 10. This has now been pushed back to no earlier than the 15th June. We have written to parents of y10 children individually sharing details of these plans. Further, we have now updated our website with our partial re-opening risk assessment, and some guidance videos. Should you have any further questions about this please get in contact with us through info@thedeanacademy.org
- We know that during these challenging times, due to changes in circumstances some members of our community may be struggling. At the Academy our teachers and staff have been donating items of food and toiletries to our own food bank. We don't want any family or child to go without the basics during this time, but we also recognise that getting in touch might be difficult. Please do get in touch if you think we might be able to help and we can let you know how to access our foodbank. Further to this, if for any reason you have any issues with accessing food vouchers if your child is eligible for free school meals please contact Declan.mooney@thedeanacademy.org in the first instance.





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Richard Brand: Headteacher

- Next week our team of Head of Years are sending out themed “virtual assemblies”. We are attempting to bring as many features of a normal school week to our students as we can – please look out for the link to this assembly and encourage your child to respond to the associated questions which follow.
- This week the Department for Education has also released some changes in guidance for children with SEND needs, during these exceptional times. A summary of these changes in guidance can be found on our website here <https://thedeanacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/SEND-Update-Letter-June-2020.pdf>

Wishing you a very restful weekend,

Kind regards,
Richard Brand

Headteacher



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