

10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we go in to the final week of this academic year, with only 5 school days left until we reach the start of a well-earned summer break, I am tremendously proud of the way our school community has supported each other during this pandemic. I want to thank parents particularly for their endless support and patience whilst our doors have been closed. I know balancing home schooling and work alongside everyday life has not been easy!

I want to inform you of a few key messages before we reach the end of term:

- 1) **Bright Spots** – this week we have been thrilled to see so many exciting and interesting pieces of work submitted by our students. Enjoy our “Bright Spots” bulletin sharing a handful of these.
- 2) **Enrichment Week** – normally at this time of year, in recognition of our students’ hard work, students would be taking part in rewards trips, sports days and end of term events. Whilst we cannot do this right now due to school closure, we do want to make the final week of term feel a little more special. We have asked our teachers to set enrichment tasks rather than their typical assignments we have been setting. You may see an increase in the amount of interesting challenges your child is taking part in.
- 3) **Staff farewells** – We are sad to say goodbye to a number of members of staff who leave us this summer. We are however delighted that we have colleagues leaving for promotion and for their next challenge and are thankful for their contributions to our school community.

4)

This summer we say goodbye to:

Ms H Deans	Deputy SENCO	4 years’ service
Ms A Edwards	Teacher of English	2 years’ service
Dr L Condon	Director of Communications	4 years’ service
Mr M Spyridakis	Teacher of Music	1 years’ service
Mr A Hutchence	Science Technician	22 years’ service

- 5) **Re-opening in September** – Thank you for your patience whilst we decide the fine details of our re-opening plan for September. I will write to you separately early next week explaining the safety measures we are implementing to keep all members of our community safe when we return.
- 6) **Uniform and standards in September** – during this pandemic we have remained open for a handful of students and more recently welcomed back Year 10s. Due to the temporary nature of this provision we have allowed students to wear their own clothes. Please be aware that in September, when all students return, we will revert to normal expectations in terms of full school uniform, punctuality and behaviour/conduct. If you need to replace items of uniform, please see at the bottom of this letter information from our providers explaining when and how you can buy uniform



for the new school year. Please also see guidance overleaf regarding acceptable uniform. Furthermore, it is expected that all students attend full time.

- 7) **Student Council** - We have appointed an excellent group of 18 students to be part of our Senior Student Team next year, full details to be released soon. Every one of them has shown their commitment to the school and to working with us over the coming year and we are hugely proud of each and every one.
- 8) **Over the summer break** – Please be reminded that the Free School Meals voucher scheme will continue to run over the six-week period of the Summer. These vouchers can be requested via declan.mooney@thedeanacademy.org should you be eligible. Please also contact him if you believe that your situation has changed, and you may now qualify for this support. In addition, the school's Food Bank continues to run, and we hope to welcome as many families as possible to access this before the summer break. If you feel this support would help your family situation, please contact Emily Smith on emily.smith@thedeanacademy.org
- 9) **September dates for your diary** –We want to balance the need for getting all students back, full time, as quickly as possible against the need to ensure our return is measured and safe. As such we have planned for a staggered return, with all students back in school by Thursday 3rd September. This will ensure we have the space and time to explain the necessary safety measures and expectations to every member of our school community.

Tuesday September 1 st	All staff INSET day
Wednesday 2 nd September	Students in Year 7 and 11 return
Thursday 3 rd September	All other year groups return

Kind regards



Richard Brand
Headteacher

