



Enjoyment

Achievement

Community

THE DEAN ACADEMY

WEEKLY PARENTS' BULLETIN NO 9

WEEK COMMENCING 9 th NOVEMBER 2020	
WEEK B	
Monday 9 th November	
Tuesday 10 th November	
Wednesday 11 th November	
Thursday 12 th November	3.30 – 5.00 p.m. Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening (pre-booked appointments only)
Friday 13 th November	

We have had a wonderful return to school this week, following what I hope was a restful and enjoyable half term for you and your families.

It will not have passed you by that unlike in March, schools will remain open. At The Dean Academy we are delighted that we will remain open as we saw the devastating impact our closure had for a number of individuals in March.

As we hear news of increasing cases in our area may I remind you of the protocols should a member of your household develop symptoms. It's really important that we are all aware of our role here, to ensure that we are able to operate safely for all members of our community.

There are however a few tweaks in the guidance due to the new restrictions which were released on Wednesday. The main ones which affect us mean that after-school clubs (drama/music/sport) need to stop with immediate effect and planned trips for the month of November also need to be postponed.

Period 6 & Victory Hour for Year 11, however, will continue to run as normal – as part of our plan to ensure students are ready for exams, we are delighted this can continue to run.

For Year 11 next week we see the launch of period 6 version 2.0. Each child has been given a personalised timetable and invited to sessions to

Enjoyment Achievement Community

Congratulations to the following weekly winners of our attendance raffle for week ending 23rd October 2020:-

KS3 – Charlie B, 9AW
KS4 – Elspeth R, 11AH

Performing Arts Starts

Dance – Ferne B and Ruby W for some excellent work on their Showcase duet.

Music – Jessica H for great piano skills and progress.

Drama – Ellie P - For a great comedic performance as Herod's wife.

support them close gaps in subjects where there is a need. Victory hour will run as normal on Tuesday and Wednesday.

You may have also seen the news that it is now mandatory for staff/students to wear face coverings whilst moving around indoor spaces at school. This has been our position since September so expect no change here.

Finally, I wanted to update you on an initiative to improve break and lunch arrangements, particularly as the weather worsens. We at The Dean Academy value student voice, and we heard from a number of students last term that due to new safety measures there was not enough outdoor seating, or covered areas to be outdoors when it rained. As such we have brought in much more outdoor seating and distributed these around site. Also, a new outdoor covered area will be installed next week so that there is a convenient place for students to be when it rains, whilst remaining COVID-safe.

Year 11 consultation evening takes place next Thursday and parents/teachers will be sent an individual appointment list in due course.

Have a lovely weekend,
Richard Brand

CHELSEA'S STORY - Due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and the restrictions and risk management strategies that schools and other educational settings are having to put in place, the decision has been made **not** to proceed with the 'Chelsea's Story' tour this year as originally planned with live theatre productions therefore this will not take place for Year 9 students on Wednesday 11th November.

Speakers for Schools live virtual broadcasts from NASA & TikTok

As we are unable to have any speakers into school at the moment, a priority for the school is to maintain our high level of careers inspiration and guidance. We would therefore like to invite your son/daughter to watch the following talk (organised by Speakers for Schools) by TikToks's General Manager for the UK, Rich Waterworth. Wednesday 11th November at 4.20 p.m. Please follow the organisation on twitter to get the link!

<https://twitter.com/speakrs4schools>

BRIGHT SPOTS

Hospitality & Catering Half Term Challenge



Jago B – Pumpkin Soup



Carys J – Pumpkin Pies

Well done to Josh C in Year 10 for his work in Engineering – excellent homework sketching 'Machining Features' and completion of a practical skills assessment work piece, both were highly accurate. **Mr Winstanley**

Healthy Start Vouchers

With Healthy Start, you get free vouchers every week to spend on milk, fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried, and tinned pulses, and infant formula milk. You can also get free vitamins. Families with children under the age of four or if there is a pregnancy could qualify if on benefits, or if pregnant and under 18. Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic we've temporarily extended the validity of the Healthy Start vouchers by 4 weeks, giving you 12 weeks to use your entitlement, we will keep this under review

Changes to The Forest of Dean Foodbank

The Forest Foodbank has implemented a number of changes to how help can be requested, which came into force on Monday 2nd November. Agencies signed up for e-referral will continue to use that system to request food parcels (any agencies wishing to migrate to this system will be able to do so later in the year). Those agencies not using e-referral will need to request food parcels by telephone. **Please do not use the red vouchers after 2nd November 2020.** The dedicated number is **07391 001217** 9:30-11:30 Monday-Thursday.

Getting Help from the Foodbank – Changes from 2nd November 2020 - Notice to Agencies

Agencies signed up for e-referral will continue to use that system to request food parcels. Any Agencies wishing to migrate over, can do so later in the year. Agencies not using e-referral will need to request food parcels by telephone. **DO NOT USE THE RED VOUCHERS AFTER 2ND NOVEMBER 2020:** The Agency will need to call to request a parcel on behalf of the individual needing support. The dedicated number is **07391 001217 between 0930 and 1130 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.** Text messages will not be picked up and the lines will close promptly at 1130. For urgent calls outside this time call 07775 2265263. Deliveries will be made by our volunteers depending on postcode, on the following days: GL14, GL16, GL17 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, GL15 Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (including NP postcodes in Gloucestershire. The Agency can call any day the helplines are open for any postcode areas covered by the Forest Foodbank and the request will be added to the next delivery round for the postcode.

Information Required

Please supply the following information to the Foodbank Call Handler:

- Name and address of the client seeking support
- Contact phone no (only to be used for delivery queries)
- Number of adults/children being supported and child ages
- Cause of crisis
- Any extras or dietary needs: eg vegetarian, intolerances, pet food, toiletries. These extras are not guaranteed but we will do our best to provide them
- Families with babies and young children can be referred to the Baby Bank/Children's Clothing Cupboard and any requirements will be delivered by the same driver along with the foodbank parcel. Advise them to call **Baby Bank 07789 465127**

If an individual has requested more than 3 food parcels in any 6 month period we will need to be satisfied that they are actively working to resolve their situation and not becoming reliant on the Foodbank.

If the individual's need is critical and we can't get to them soon enough, the Salvation Army are holding some Foodbank food parcels and may offer a quicker response.

Phone Numbers

- Foodbank Helpline 07391 001217**
- Foodbank Manager 07775 265263**
- Baby Bank 07789 465127**

Salvation Army 01594 84906 (Monday, Tuesday, Friday 1000-1400)

Foodbank email: info@theforest.foodbank.org.uk

SCHOOL BUS INFORMATION

Students should carry their bus passes at all times and the passes are valid for the whole year. If a pass is lost or damaged a replacement pass will cost £5.00 obtainable from Shire Hall, Gloucester only.

If you need to obtain a replacement bus pass for your child please visit:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/applyforabuspass to pay for your pass online. Replacement passes can no longer be ordered and paid for by telephone.

If you need to enquire about the spare seat scheme please visit:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/spareseat

If you are enquiring about your existing spare seat application and you have received an email receipt from Shire Hall, this means applications are currently being processed and you will be contacted by email in due course with the outcome.

Alternatively, you may be able to find the information you require by visiting the Gloucestershire County Council website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education where council information and services can be accessed 24 hours a day.

If a student misses a bus or is refused travel home because they do not have their bus pass, they should come back into the school so that parents can be contacted, or arrangements can be made to get them home.

If a student forgets their bus pass, they should see Theresa Whatley, Head's PA before 12.30 p.m. on the day who will contact Shire Hall to gain permission for the student to travel home that day otherwise, they may be refused travel home.

UNIFORM

A reminder for parents that our school uniform and PE kit are compulsory for all students. Please see the school website for full details of the school uniform and PE kit.

www.thedeanacademy.org

Our uniform suppliers are:- Monkhouse Schoolwear, 99 Northgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2AA, Tel No: 01452 413339, <http://www.monkhouse.com>

PE Kit is available from: Macron Store, Unit 9, Bamel Way, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4BH Tel No: 01452 386400, www.macronstoregloucester.com

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Apply online for Free School Meals. Check to see if you are eligible.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals