



Enjoyment

Achievement

Community

WEEKLY PARENTS' BULLETIN NO 16 – WEEK B

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you have had a positive week and that supporting children with remote education at home has started to feel slightly more routine. Academy staff have worked incredibly hard this week to ensure that our live lessons are accessible, engaging and fun.

Engagement

Over the week we have been exceptionally pleased to see so many of our young people joining live lessons and engaging so brilliantly with remote education. Teachers have commented how it is strange not knowing how students are finding the lessons from the other side of the screen but as the week has gone on it has been reassuring to see lots and lots of excellent work being submitted and marked virtually. Seeing first-hand the work that students have submitted serves as a useful reminder of how, despite the challenges with online learning, our young people are resilient and determined to succeed. Over 90% of our students have “attended” more than two live lessons every day this week. Well done to Year 8 who have the top virtual attendance of all year groups.

Free School Meals

You will likely have seen the national news coverage surrounding Free School Meals intensify this week, with images of dreadful “food hampers”. With most young people staying at home, we know how important FSM are for many of our families, particularly as many are experiencing changing circumstances. Rather than parcels, we have sent vouchers to any family who is eligible for FSM. The first instalment for w/b 4th January was sent on Wednesday and another voucher has been sent today for w/b 11th January. We hope these vouchers enable more flexibility for our families who rely on them. Should you think you may be eligible for FSM due to a recent change in circumstances you can check [here for the criteria to apply](#). Should you have further queries regarding FSM you can contact Jayne Barnett, Finance Manager, at Jayne.Barnett@thedeanacademy.org.

Student Wellbeing

Whilst many of our young people are loving online learning, we know for some, the impact of lockdown is hard. A number of our students have commented how they are missing the normal interaction that school provides. We also know that online lessons are exhausting for our students (and teachers!) Whilst a good substitute, we fully appreciate there are issues associated with sitting in front of a screen for 5hrs a day!

As such, next week we want to highlight some opportunities to connect, be active, and prioritise wellbeing.

- *PE lessons* – Our wonderful PE team have been preparing a range of exciting challenges to keep students active. PE lessons are being delivered by pre-recorded videos and resources and not as live lessons. Students should click on their Core PE Team on MS teams, then click on files and then class materials. In that folder are all the videos, PowerPoints and resources for each individual lesson. Look out for this week’s “wheel of fortune” challenge.

- *Mindfulness* – [please see this excellent resource](#), which has been emailed to all students, explaining some top mindfulness techniques. Thank you to Ms Clark for sharing.
- *Winter-watch photography competition* – Mr Kelley is introducing a weekly photography competition. Look out for more details of where to send in your great photos of nature and wildlife from your daily (local!) walk.
- *Tutor Check-ins* – Next week on Tuesday and Thursday, students can join a 15min check-in with their tutor. We hope that students welcome this time with their tutor group to discuss how things are going.
- *Student Services drop-ins* - Mr Palmer and Mrs Dance are running drop-in sessions for any child who might like a chance to talk, ask for support or just to have a check-in <https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SSC-check-ins.pdf>

Post 16 information for Year 11

Please note that an email from Careers Lead, Mrs Roberts-Marklove, has been sent to all Year 11 students this week. Despite the uncertainty surrounding how GCSE grades will be assigned, the normal timelines for applications to Post-16 settings still apply. Within the email there is information for students looking to apply to local colleges or sixth forms and sources of support should students need more guidance.

Access to remote education

Since last Tuesday we have been able to provide 58 laptops and numerous 4G WiFi routers for students who were without devices or who have unreliable internet access. We are currently waiting for more laptops to be delivered but we able to place orders for 4G WiFi routers for individuals. Should you think your child could benefit from either a laptop or WiFi router please contact us at info@thedeacademy.org. Further, Mr Warren, Teacher of ICT & Computing, has produced a helpful guide <https://thedeacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Office-365-on-PS-or-Xbox.pdf> which explains how students can get access to live lessons and email from a games console, such as an Xbox or Playstation, and view on their screen.

Collecting exercise books and equipment

From Monday 18th January if you need blank exercise books these can be collected the from reception free of charge. Students are filling up pages quickly and we know that some students will prefer to work in books to keep their work. From Monday, simply come to reception and feel free to help yourself from a range of books as required. In addition, if your child needs pens/pencils or other equipment have left some supplies of stationery which you are able to buy, at cost price. We ask that parents use the honesty box referring to the price list.

Yours sincerely



Richard Brand
Headteacher

The schedule for live broadcasts w/c 18th January- free from Speakers for Schools

Here is next week's full [Live Broadcasts Schedule](#). Please feel free to share the schedule with students.

WEEK STARTING MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2021

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Tues 19th January 5- 6pm LINK TO JOIN	Anthony Salcito, Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Education for KS4-5/S4-6	Anthony Salcito is the Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Education and was previously the Vice President of the Public Sector & Government. Anthony's role involves empowering educators and inspiring students to achieve more. He aims to transform the way we all learn, with the support of the best technology, to help build the skills needed for the 21st century workplace. In this SFS broadcast, tune in to hear Anthony's thoughts on how technology has impacted education, what skills are important for your future career and get the opportunity to ask your questions!
Wed 20th January 10- 11am LINK TO JOIN	Sophie Darlington, Wildlife Cinematographer for KS3-5/S1-6	Join us to hear Sophie Darlington share insights into what it is like to be a Wildlife Cinematographer. Sophie will be interviewed by SFS on what it was like to work on "Our Planet" and "Perfect Planet", where she gains her inspiration from and will be sharing some top tips on filmmaking. A broadcast not to be missed for students interested in nature and filmmaking.
Wed 20th January on ZOOM 2-3pm FORM TO SIGN UP	Introduction to Animation & VFX with Industrial Light & Magic for KS3/S1-3	Join Industrial Light and Magic for this ZOOM webinar about what it's like to have a career in VFX! There will be the opportunity to hear from people who work for ILM and how they started in their careers and more about their work. There will be the opportunity to ask the speakers questions too.

HOW TO JOIN THE LIVE BROADCASTS

- Join 10 minutes before the broadcast to be ready
- You can join without needing an account – [Watch how here](#)
- For full speaker descriptions visit the [Broadcast Schedule here](#)

LIVE BROADCASTS LIBRARY & MORE

- Watch pre-recorded broadcasts from our library [here](#)
- Please see our [Schools Guide here](#).
- Below my signature is more information on the SFS activity sheet

- The colour codes can be found below

From all of us at Speakers for Schools, we hope you and your students enjoy the live broadcasts programme!

SFS has also designed an [activity sheet](#) for your students to complete after the talk and send back to you, for you to measure student engagement. In every talk we will announce a colour which your student can fill in and this will show which students of yours have attended the talk.

Colour codes:

Tuesday 19th January 5 - 6pm, Anthony Salcito, Vice President of Microsoft Worldwide Education – Red

Wednesday 20th January 10 - 11am, Sophie Darlington, Wildlife Cinematographer- Green

Wednesday 20th January 2 - 3 pm, Industrial Light and Magic- Blue



TEXT FOR SUPPORT
07480 635723

It's okay to not be okay. YMM Chat is here for you. Message now for advice and support. We offer free and confidential support and advice for young people needing mental health support.



It can be hard to approach an adult about things you are worried about and experiencing at school or at home, but help is available from the Young Minds Matter Text service known as YMM Chat.

You can text for advice and support around your mental health or you can confidentially self-refer yourself into the service for some 1:1 support around things like low mood, anxiety or poor sleep.

YMMChat is a safe and confidential text based mental health support service for young people aged between 11-18yrs within TrailBlazer schools and colleges across Gloucestershire.

If you want to use the text service - there's a friendly team of experts who are here for you during the school day - between 9.00 in the morning until 4.30 in the afternoon - Monday to Friday and the team will aim to get back to you within an hour.

You can text about anything that is worrying you - if you are feeling down or anxious and you can also use this service to self-refer yourself to the Young Minds Matter team. They can meet you at school, college or online to talk things through in person without a parent/carer or a teacher/ lecturer needing to be involved. We can arrange an appointment with you by text, so you don't need to worry about letters being sent to your house.

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