



Enjoyment

Achievement

Community

WEEKLY PARENTS' BULLETIN NO 17 – WEEK A

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of our third week of remote education, I want to start by thanking all of our parents. We know it must be incredibly difficult juggling both work and supporting your child's learning and we are incredibly grateful for your support. This week, on average we have had over 93% of our young people joining us for online lessons which is incredible. Thank you and keep going!

In the news this week

As we reach the end of the third week of this six-week term many parents across the country have been looking to February half term and wondering if schools will re-open. Ministers have been hesitant to confirm a date but have confirmed that they will aim to give as much notice about schools re-opening as possible. Regrettably, given infection rates it seems probable that schools could remain closed beyond February half term. In addition, you might have seen discussion about the use of lateral flow testing in schools. Lateral flow testing is an important step forward in identifying asymptomatic individuals in schools and we will continue to test students and staff weekly. However, as per recent guidance from the Department for Education, will be pausing only the 7-day serial testing for any child named as a close contact of a positive case (weekly testing will continue). The rationale for this is that there is growing concern that it is simply safer for all close contacts to self-isolate than to use lateral flow tests, which are known not to be 100% accurate. More details can be found [here](#).

OFQUAL consultation on a fair GCSE grading process

I wrote to Year 11 parents and students this week with some guidance around a consultation that has been released by OFQUAL (the organisation responsible for awarding fair grades this summer). A copy of that letter can be found [here](#) and within it is a summary of the proposals for how GCSE grades could be awarded this summer in the absence of normal exams. Please note that no final decisions have been made around this yet, but we thought it important to share the suggestions which are being discussed, so that students remain prepared.

Student wellbeing

Attendance to online lessons this week has been excellent. Well over 90% of students attended online lessons across the week. Particularly well done to Year 7 who top this week's attendance, with 95% attending online lessons every day this week. Particularly given the excellent attendance to lessons we are mindful of the impact of extended screen time. Starting next week, we have asked our teachers to prepare 50min lessons (finishing 10mins before the start of the next lesson). This is designed to give students an important breather between lessons and to ensure that they are not fixed to their computer for 5 hours without a break.

Social media and communication

With the situation changing quickly in schools across the country at the moment we seem to be sending you a lot of letters! We want to look at other ways of communicating key events, news, and messages and wanted to make you aware of our newly formed Instagram, Twitter and Facebook pages.

From next week we will use these to keep you updated with news from school – please follow us!

Twitter	Facebook	Instagram
@TheDeanAcademy	@thedeanacademyofficial	@thedeanacademyofficial

Free school meals

Last week we sent vouchers for Free School Meals for the first two weeks of term to all families of students who are eligible. Going forward we will continue to send vouchers on a fortnightly basis. The next instalment will be sent in the week beginning 25th January covering this week and next. If for any reason you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals please see [this link](#) for criteria and how to apply.

Devices and Internet access

This week we have received 14 more laptops from the Department for Education and been able to loan some of these to students who were without a device, bringing the total to 72. We still have a small number available to loan to students who may need them. If your child could benefit from a laptop, particularly as it is now probable that we might be working in this way beyond February half term, please contact us at info@thedeanacademy.org and we will contact you as soon as we can to arrange pick up.

Parent Survey

After three weeks of remote education, we very much hope that you are finding Lockdown 2.0 more manageable. Our staff are working incredibly hard to plan engaging, exciting and accessible lessons to keep our children learning whilst they are away from school and I would hope that you are seeing a significant improvement compared to March 2020.

However, we would still like to hear from you, and use your feedback to improve further. We don't know when schools might re-open, and if we are to work this way for an extended period of time, we want to do all we can to act on feedback to improve our offer.

Please take a few moments to complete this survey – thank you in advance, your feedback is vital to help us improve our offer. [Click here to open and complete the survey which should take no more than 5 minutes to complete!](#)

Yours sincerely



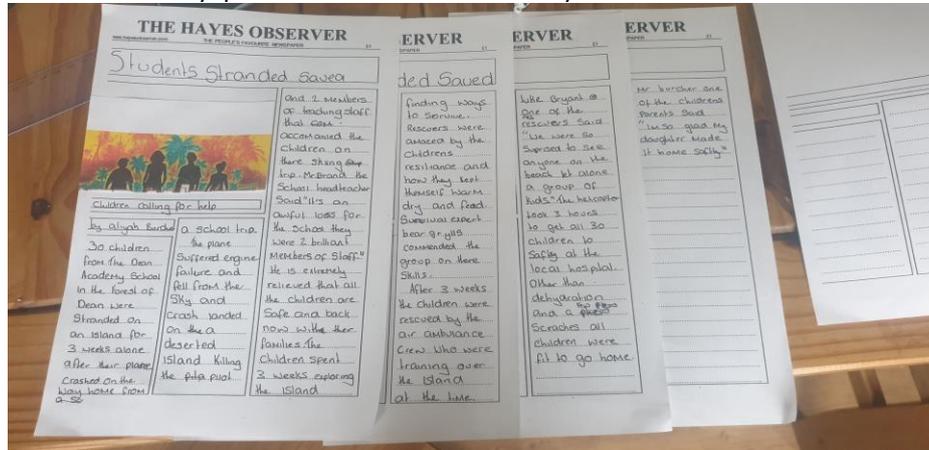
Richard Brand
Headteacher

CAREERS INFORMATION

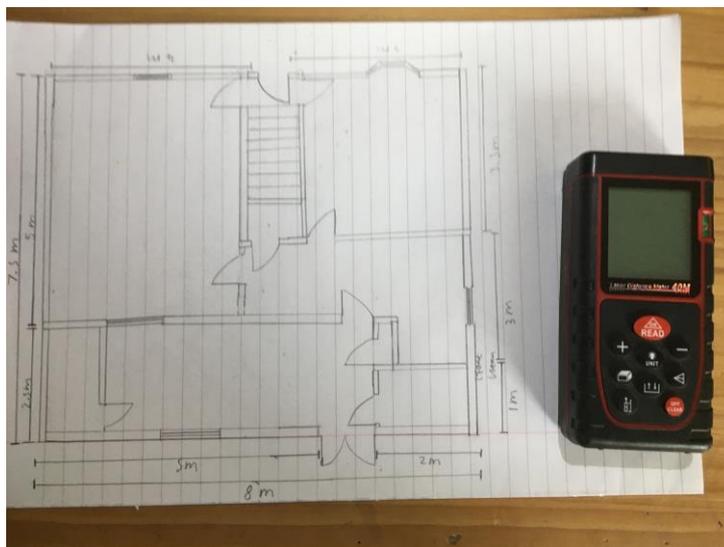
Could I please remind all Year 11 students to check their emails regularly regarding careers interviews and to keep a look out on Classcharts and the school website for updates of virtual events offered by various next step providers. **Mrs Roberts-Marklove**

BRIGHT SPOTS

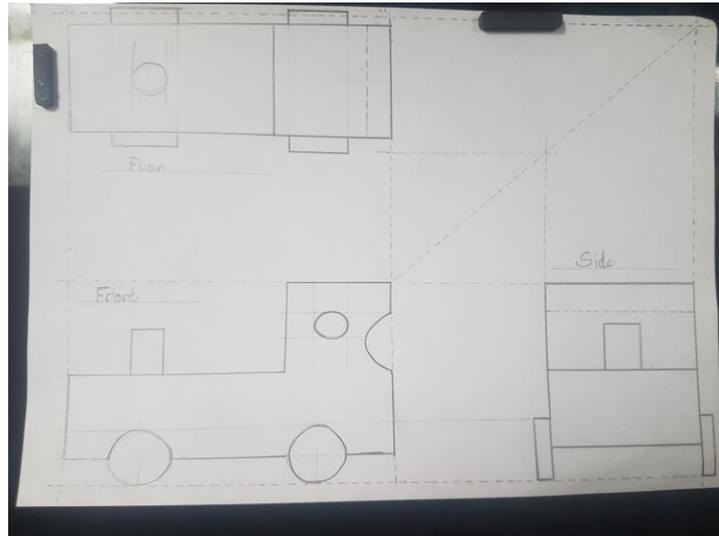
Here's a lovely piece of work from Aliyah B in Year 8. **Ms Paton**



Year 11 Construction were set the challenge after an introduction to the career path in surveying, to produce a plan of their home. Josh T produced a very high-quality plan, that uses the correct drawing standards that any professional company would be proud of and could use to work from. Great work. **Mr Winstanley**



Lucas D in Year 8 - has now completed 2 technically brilliant Orthographic Projection drawings, following our remote technology lesson on Technical drawing, he completed this unaided at home. - Brilliant work, well done. **Mr Winstanley**

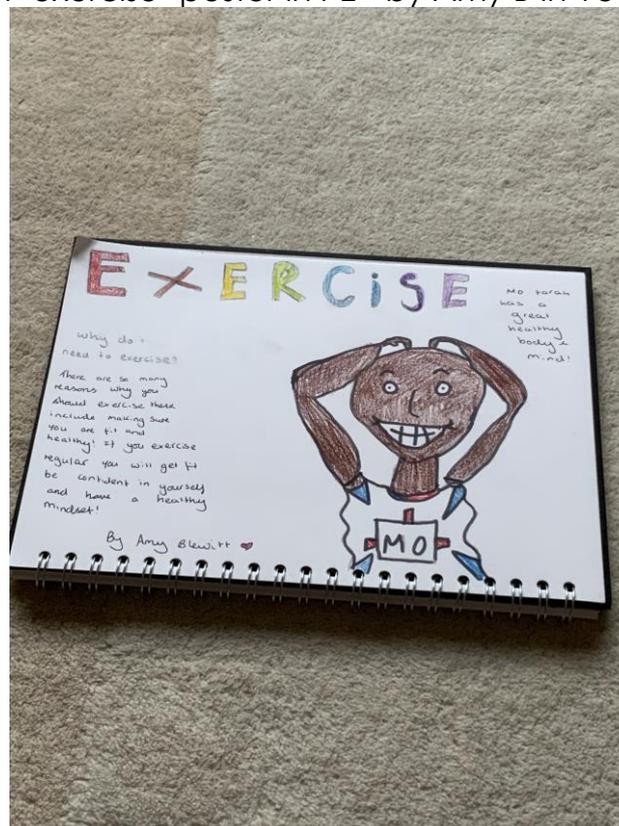


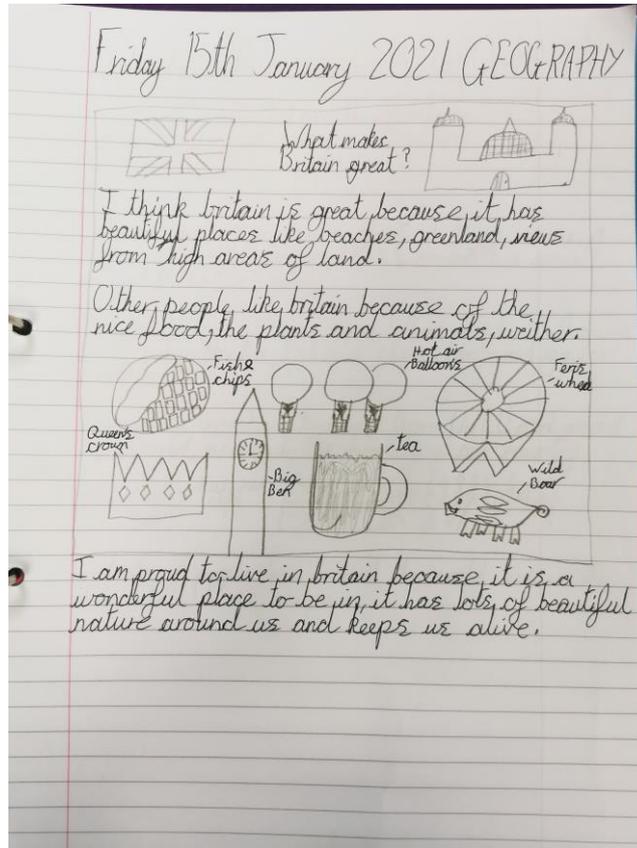
Idea Bronze Awards

4 students have gained the iDEA Bronze Award. Bizzy D, Oliver E and Cameron R in Year 9 and Bailey P in Year 8.

Elijah E in Year 7 has 11 more code challenges to complete out of 108 in his Studio.code.org Accelerated Intro to Computer Science course, over the past few weeks he has written 1049 lines of code.

Producing an 'exercise' poster in PE - by Amy B in Year 8. **Mr Glynn**





Students have been researching the nutrition needed for children aged 4 - 7. Choosing nutritious meals, planning them and designing menus suitable for Hospitality establishments.

Excellent work by Sawitta A and Alysha M in Year 8 – **Mrs Gittins-Jones**

What is considered a fun meal

Sawitta Aldridge

These can all be considered fun meals because they all have something interesting about them for example some of them are colourful because they have all different colours of fruit and veg on them this makes vegetables more interesting and fun. The meals that aren't so colourful are interesting because they are something someone might eat normally just in a different shape or form which makes it more fun and interesting.

Mr fish's seaside café

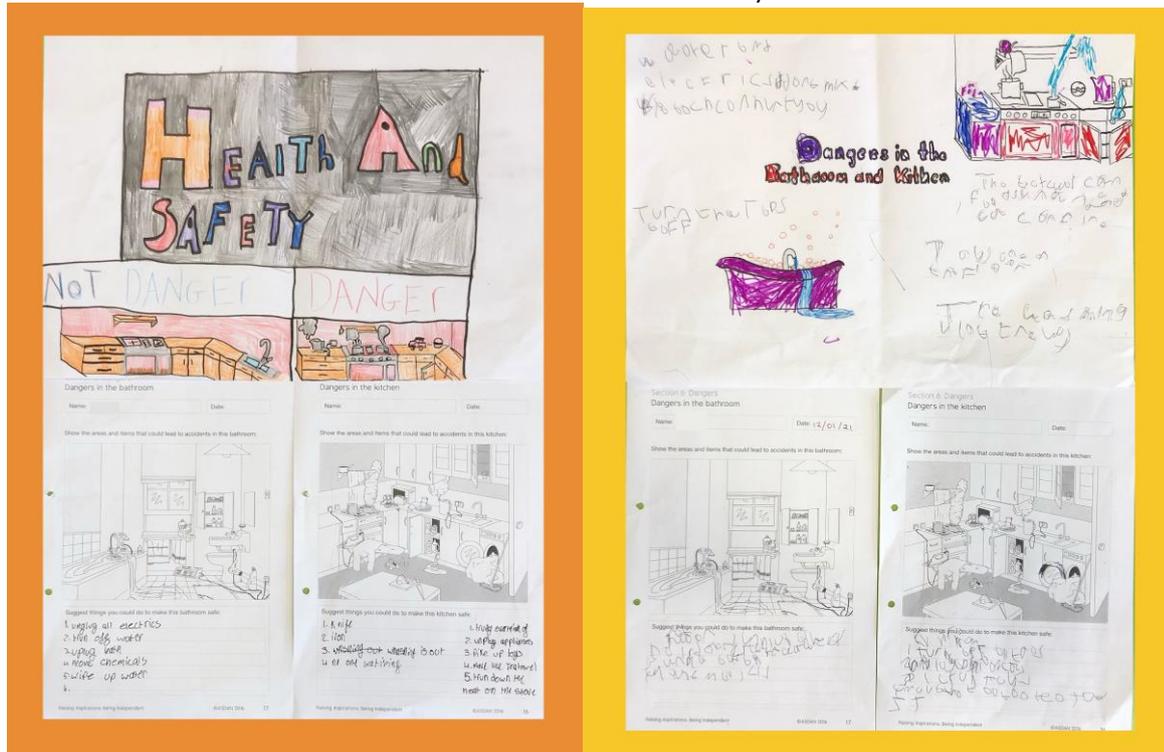
Children's Menu	
Sausage pasta	£3.50
Burger with scotch egg	£5.00
Desserts	
10 Choco and cream strawberries	£2.57
3 Ice cream and sprinkle waffle sandwiches	£3.40

Alysha Minchington

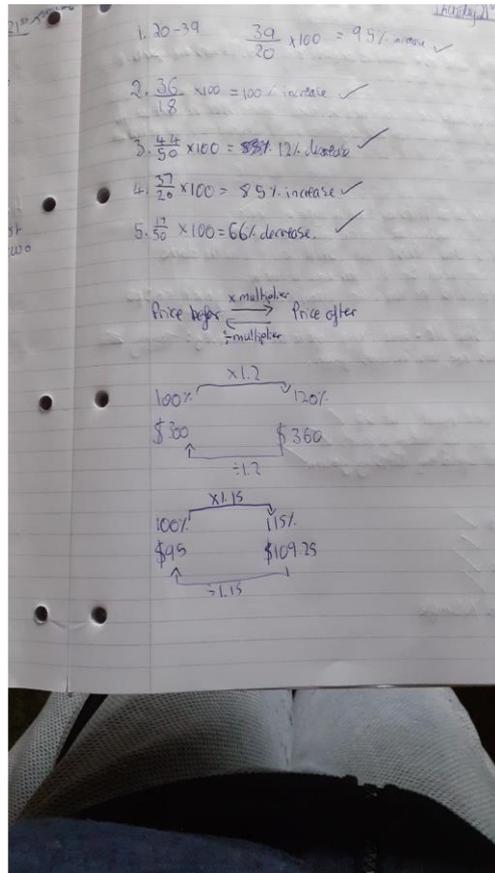
Health and Safety posters for dangers in bathrooms and kitchens designed this week. Well done! – Mrs Clark

Archie T in Year 8

Finley S in Year 8



Excellent presented and well understood reverse percentage work from Alex H in Year 9 – Ms Meredith





Ryan B and Carys J in Year 10
Very impressive PE lesson today with Year 10. **Mrs Turley**

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