

25th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Potential Year 10 into Year 11 Summer School (23rd – 27th August 2021)

You may well be aware from recent media reports following schools being closed during our national lockdowns that the Government has explored the potential benefits of schools running a short period of Summer School in the six-week holiday. This idea contains much merit and is one which we, as a school leadership team, have explored in detail. While we understand, especially this year, that the summer holidays are an important time for both students and staff to rest and recuperate, spend much needed time with their families and to enjoy some well-deserved time away from school, we are considering running a short Summer School for students moving from Year 10 to Year 11.

This letter is being sent to begin to engage in dialogue with yourselves and students in Year 10 around whether running a Summer School would be a success at The Dean Academy. At this time no decisions have been made and we will be spending time talking to students to ensure that any plans put forward both involve and work for them. We have had similar conversations with staff and feel confident that we would be able to develop a timetable of lessons which boosted student's confidence through revision of topics covered during lockdown. We would be prepared to offer lessons in core subject areas as well as the majority of option subjects over a one-week period towards the end of the summer holidays, with the aim of bridging learning completed remotely to that completed since schools have reopened.

In order for us to plan an effective timetable, we must first establish potential interest from both yourselves and your children, as well as understand when this might run. We will speak to students in Year 10 in tutor time and via assemblies and ask you to discuss their interest and to encourage them to consider attending the summer school in order to give them the best possible chance of success in Year 11. **In order for us to gauge interest levels, please complete the short Microsoft Forms questionnaire [Summer School Survey](#) by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday 29th June.** This will give you a selection of options with regards to when attendance at the summer school may be possible and will allow us to move on with our plans.

While I understand there may be some hesitation among students and parents around the apparent shortening of this important holiday period, may I please assure you of the following:

- Students will only be required on site between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day

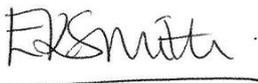


- There will be four 50-minute lessons each day giving students a chance to focus primarily on their core subjects of Maths, English and Science, plus also on the majority of option subjects
- We will build in time for students to reflect on their potential next steps in terms of study and career choices as well as focus on bridging any gaps left through remote learning
- We will spend time talking to students about important transferable skills around revision time management and physical and mental wellbeing as they approach Year 11
- We are also exploring the option of using one day of summer school to run trips out to local universities and higher education providers in order to begin to engage them with thinking about their next steps

Any plans communicated with you over coming weeks are, of course, subject to Government decisions and restrictions.

Many thanks for the conversations you will have over the coming days and weeks around the importance of considering the benefits of Summer School. We hope to see as many students as possible during this time, where they can lay solid foundations for success in their exams next year.

Yours sincerely



Emily Smith
Deputy Headteacher



Hannah Rowlands
Assistant Headteacher



Kelly Jones
Head of Year 11

[EKS/HR/KI/TW - Year 10 summer school-245621](#)