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Richard Brand: Headteacher

10<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Re: Continued support for Year 11 students in their transition to post-16**

We hope that this letter finds you well and you have had an enjoyable half term break. We had a wonderful day of celebrations with our Year 11 students on their last day on site here at The Dean Academy – we were certainly very sad to see them go and are incredibly proud of all they have achieved in their time here. School certainly feels much quieter without them here! As an ongoing commitment to our Year 11 students we are putting in place a support programme for them as they embark upon the next phase of their lives; whether this be going to study at 6<sup>th</sup> form or college, on an apprenticeship, or in the work place.

Starting from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, we are offering a twice weekly check in with their tutors via MS Teams (in a manner akin to what was done during the period of lockdown) where the students can login and speak with their tutor and other members of their tutor group in an informal manner. This will be done on a Monday and Friday during the same time frame as the tutor period was (8.50 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.) and can be accessed through their MS Teams accounts. We are also offering drop in sessions on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30 p.m. – 4.15 p.m. with Mrs Jones, Mrs Smith and Mrs Rowlands where students can get in touch via email and make appointments to discuss any concerns or worries they may have, or simply to say hello and keep us updated with what they have been up to!

In addition to this pastoral support, we are producing a bank of academic resources that students can use to support their preparations for their next steps. These include specific subject materials as well as some guidance for careers and support for maintaining their physical and mental wellbeing. These can be found on the academy website under the tab “Year 11 – post 16 transition”, again from next Monday. If students have any questions or queries about these academic resources they are welcome to email the relevant Director of Faculty.

As a final note, we know that many Year 11 students have been waiting incredibly patiently for concrete news around prom and where/how this might go ahead. Whilst it is still very much our hope that will be able to hold an end of year celebration, hopefully in July, given the fast changing situation we need to ask for your understanding as we defer any decisions until we know more about relaxations to restrictions. We are awaiting a further announcement on June 21<sup>st</sup> from the Government to see if mass gathering type events will be allowed. Thank you again for your understanding on this matter as we have to prioritise community safety and wellbeing.



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We look forward to continuing to support our Year 11 students during this period. If you have any further questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact either [KellyA.Jones@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:KellyA.Jones@thedeanacademy.org) or [Hannah.rowlands@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:Hannah.rowlands@thedeanacademy.org) and if there are any issues regarding IT access please contact our IT support on [peter.baker-churcher@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:peter.baker-churcher@thedeanacademy.org).

Yours sincerely

**Kelly Jones**  
Head of Year 11

**Hannah Rowlands**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher

HR/KJ/TW - Year 11 support-100621

