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Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate (AFSAD): Thursday, 15th June, 2023

Following its success last year the Athelstan Festival of Speech and Debate shall return again! It is a collaboration between our five schools that aims to showcase students' talents, interests and generally celebrate the power of the spoken word.

The festival will give students in Year 7, 8 and 9 the chance to engage in healthy competition by entering into one of three categories: Speech, Debate, Dramatic reading/recital. Your child has expressed an interest in this event and we are delighted that they are already engaged in planning and rehearsing their contribution.

On Thursday, 15th June, all students involved will meet at The Dean Academy before travelling together to Sir William Romney school, who will be our hosts this year. Students will enjoy watching one another's performances and also perform themselves in front of a judging panel. This will enable us to select the finalists who will perform in front of a live audience for the final round of the competition. Students will also be filmed so you can stream the event from home. Signing up to this trip, confirms your permission for this.

Please note the following logistical arrangements for the day:

- Students will arrive at school at 8.20am and meet outside the main entrance
- They will leave TDA promptly at 8.30am to go together to Sir William Romney School
- The daytime rounds will begin after 10am with breaks and lunch times factored in
- The event will finish by 3:30pm at Sir William Romney, we hope to be back at The Dean Academy at 4.40pm
- Students will need to arrange travel home (unless walking)
- Students will need to attend in full school uniform
- We ask that students bring either a book to read or some homework to complete during any quiet moments in the day
- We ask students to bring a packed lunch and snacks for during the day.

All students will be representing their schools and so we expect them to model best behaviour throughout the day. This year the event will be condensed to a full school day, we will be live streaming the event so that friends and family can watch in real time, online or watch later; a link will be shared nearer the time.

Please could you give consent for your child to attend this event via Parent Pay, along with any medical requirements and dietary needs as soon as possible.

We hope that your child enjoys this opportunity, wish them luck in the competition and look forward to seeing you at the final performance.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Osborne
Director of Communications

