



Church Road, Lydney
Gloucestershire, GL15 5DZ
T: 01594 843202
E: info@thedeanacademy.org
www.thedeanacademy.org

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6th July 2023

Richard Brand, Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Re. Key information for Year 11 academic year 2023-2024

As we near the end of Year 10 and are about to start your child's last year here with us at The Dean Academy, we just wanted to share with you some key information relating to this important transition.

Year 11 Parent Information Evening

On Thursday 7th September from 4.45 p.m., we would like to invite all students with their parents/carers to a Year 11 Information Evening here at the school, where we will discuss how we will be supporting our students through this crucial time and provide you with information about important dates.

Period 6

Last year we successfully launched an extended day for Year 11 students, and we will be continuing with this into the academic year 2023-24. Students will be expected to attend Period 6 sessions every week on a Wednesday and Thursday, 3.15 p.m. – 4.15 p.m. from Wednesday 6th September.

Overwhelmingly research shows that students that attend regular, additional intervention sessions make significant progress compared to their peers who do not, and this was indeed the basis behind the big drive in “closing the gap” following the pandemic. However, we also appreciate that it is important that we do not overload students with extra study to support their mental wellbeing, and as such we have opted to run these sessions only twice per week rather than every day in order to maintain the balance. The focus of the sessions will be upon exam practice and application of prior taught knowledge/skills and not simply another lesson, therefore forming an integral part of the students' self-study timetable.

We understand that for a minority of students they will require transport home. If parents/carers can make alternative arrangements for students to be collected on a Wednesday or Thursday at 4.15 p.m. it would be helpful but for those who cannot make alternative arrangements the Academy will provide transport home via minibus. If your child is unable to make alternative arrangements to get home and will require transport, please contact info@thedeanacademy.org before 4th September to help us with planning.

For those students that wish to, there will also be the option to stay on site from 4.15 p.m. - 5.15 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday in the library for “Victory Hour” where they can work in small study groups supporting each other with their revision or homework. Refreshments for these students will be provided.



Bespoke, individual period 6 timetables will be distributed to students on their first day back, Monday 4th September. Subjects will be allocated based upon their FGP from their report at the end of Year 10 and this will be reviewed following their mock examinations in November and a new timetable distributed for terms 3 and 4 after Christmas.

Summer Self Study

Students will be given some optional summer work to be completed during the school holidays should they wish to. The work is not intended to be extensive – a maximum of 1 hour per subject across 10 subjects. The work is not compulsory, but we would advise if students have spare time that they do attempt some of the work, particularly for those subjects where they did not achieve their potential in their end of year exams. Given the nature of most of the new GCSEs meaning that all examinations are terminal at the end of year 11, this work is to support students to retain knowledge and skills covered in their Year 10 studies. All work set will be found on ClassCharts.

If you have any questions regarding the arrangements for Period 6, Summer Self-Study or anything else pertaining to the start of Year 11, please do not hesitate to contact me hrowlands@thedeacademy.org.

Many thanks for your continued support through your child's journey here with us at The Dean Academy. We wish all of our families an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours faithfully



Hannah Rowlands
Assistant Headteacher