

18th July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Just before we all begin the well-earned summer break, I wanted to outline some key information to support the start of Autumn term in September.

Start of Autumn term

This year we will have a staggered start to the new school year. Year 7 and Year 11 will return to school on Tuesday 3rd September and Year 8, 9 and 10 will return on Wednesday 4th September. Students should arrive ready to go in to tutor at 0845 in full school uniform. The morning will be spent working through arrangements for the term ahead such as sorting timetables and sharing expectations. In addition, all students will have a house assembly. Students will go to normal lessons from period 3 onwards. Term dates for Academic Year 2024 -5 can be found [here](#).

Staffing

We have some staff moving on at the end of this academic year – I would like to thank them all for everything they have done during their time at the school and wish them all the best for the future. Colleagues leaving this term are Mr R Brand, Headteacher, Mr D Mooney, Deputy Headteacher, Miss N Longman, Geography Teacher and Miss J McGrath, Humanities Teacher. Whilst we are extremely sad to see these colleagues leave, we are excited that they are going on to take their next steps. It is also an exciting time for us as we have 1 new member of staff joining us in September Mr K Gunter, Geography Teacher. We have another large incoming cohort of Year 7s (183).

Standards – Uniform

Please can we ask for your support to ensure that your child arrives in September in full school uniform. It is essential that for a strong start students feel ready, have the right equipment and look smart. Uniform can be purchased from our provider Monkhouse but we also have a stock of nearly-new uniform which has been donated by students who have left the school or by those who have out-grown – contact info@thedeanacademy.org for more information. Please do not wait until September when your child returns to school to reach out. On arrival, if any child does not have full uniform, we will make items available to them until they can be purchased.

Attendance

Habits and expectations around attendance have shifted over the last 2-3 years. We are seeing more students absent from school whereby previously they might have come in. We all





**THE DEAN
ACADEMY**

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

Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

have a part to play in promoting the importance of attending school every day. We are looking to mark the start of the new academic year with a significant push on attendance and we would appreciate your support to help ensure that we work together to ensure your child attends well. Those first days back really matter. Evidence from a recent Children's Commissioner report showed that children who miss days 2, 3 and 4 of the new term for unauthorised reasons had a predicted overall absence of almost 45%, or 31 days across the term.

Parent Voice

I am keen to meet as many members of the community as possible in the Autumn Term. If you have views to share with me, I warmly invite you to do so. Please look out for coffee morning invitations or reach out via the school email address. I am also very keen to establish a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and will be looking for volunteers to work alongside me to enhance our relationship with the local community and fundraise for new facilities and equipment needed in the school.

Finally, I would like to thank the students, staff, parents and wider community for working to support us to make this a highly successful year for the school and I wish you all a very restful, and well earned, summer break.

Yours sincerely

Hannah Rowlands

Headteacher (wef Sept 2024)

HR/TW - end of year letter-2024



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