

16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September is an INSET day so school will not be open to students. Year 7 and Year 11 will return to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September and Year 8, 9 and 10 will return on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 year group assembly. Students will go to normal lessons from period 2 onwards. Term dates for Academic Year 2025-6 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 Hole, History teacher (of over 25 years at this school!), Miss Eddy, Head of MFL, Mrs Morris, MFL teacher and Mrs Barnard, MFL 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 many new staff joining us in September. We also look forward to welcoming the Class of 2030 - another large incoming cohort of Year 7s – to our TDA community.

### **Standards – Uniform**

Please can we ask for your support to ensure that your child arrives in September in full school uniform – full details of which can be found on our website. 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](mailto: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.

It is essential that for a strong start students feel ready, have the right equipment and look smart. We are making some adjustments to our uniform for the start of term in September so please familiarise yourself with these (outlined below).



1. Students are welcome to wear any **PLAIN BLACK** footwear, which includes trainers. This footwear should **NOT** include any coloured logos or marks and soles must also be black.
2. Students may wear **ONE NOSE STUD** only (no nose rings/"dangly" nose piercings) and these **MUST** be removed for PE
3. Students may wear **STUD EARRINGS** only – please no hoops, "dangly" earrings or bars. Again, these **MUST** be removed for PE.
4. Students are **NOT** permitted to wear any of the following:
  - a. **LEGGINGS** (other than with a note from a medical professional for exemption which must be shown to the school) or other tight, jean style trousers – students that arrive in school in leggings or trousers that are not appropriately tailored trousers will be expected to borrow some of our stock of uniform or parents will be asked to bring alternative trousers in to school.
  - b. **HOODED JUMPERS** (either with a zip or without) – if students choose to wear these to school, they will be confiscated and parents/carers will be asked to collect them from reception.
  - c. Nike pro shorts or "hot pant" style shorts for PE

It is important that parents/carers support us in upholding our uniform expectations so thank you in advance for this.

### **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 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.



## Mobile phones

Following lots of the research that has come out recently about the impact that smartphones and specifically some of the apps on them, have on the mental health and wellbeing of young people, we conducted some parent voice, staff voice, student voice and a parent discussion meeting this term. Following these we are amending our mobile phone policy to the following:

- Parents and carers overwhelmingly said they wish their child to bring a phone (if they have one) to school as a safety measure for the journey between school and home – I absolutely understand and appreciate this and so students are welcome to continue bringing their phones to school.
- Students in **Year 7 & 8** from September (so the new cohort and current Year 7s) will be asked to hand over their phones at the start of the day to store their phones in a lockable case that will be stored centrally. Students will then collect these at the end of the day in an additional 5-minute tutor period before leaving school (please note the school day will still end at 3.15 p.m.).
- For terms 1 & 2 students in **Years 9, 10 & 11** will have the option of handing their mobile phone in, to be stored in the same lockable style case that will also be stored centrally. If students opt not to do this, they will be expected to continue following our current policy that is their phones need to be turned off or on silent and kept in their bags out of sight. We will be reviewing the success of the lockable case system for Years 7 & 8 and will make a decision about how to put in place for Years 9-11 as the year progresses.
- As an amendment to our current behavioural procedures to address mobile phone use, if a child is seen using a mobile phone or air pods/ear buds on school site during the day the phone/air pod/ear bud will be confiscated and parents/carers contacted and informed that if it happens a second time they will be asked to come and collect the item as opposed to the student collecting them – the school will only hand the item back to the parent/carer.

We do appreciate that some students need their phones on their person throughout the day for medical reasons and will of course make exemptions for these students – if you believe this relates to your child please contact [info@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:info@thedeanacademy.org) to inform us of this.

## 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





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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

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 all of their help and support, both personally and professionally, in my first year as Headteacher at this wonderful school of ours. I am very much looking forward to what we can all achieve in the next academic year and wish you all a very restful, and well earned, summer break.

Yours sincerely

**Hannah Rowlands**  
Headteacher

HR/TW - end of year letter-2025



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