

WEEKLY PARENT BULLETIN NO 1

Week Commencing 7th September 2026

WEEK B	CATS all week
Monday 7 th September	
Tuesday 8 th September	4.30 – 5.00 p.m. Year 10 Information Evening
Wednesday 9 th September	4.30 – 5.00 p.m. Year 9 Information Evening
Thursday 10 th September	
Friday 11 th September	

Dear TDA families,

I hope that this finds everyone in our community well and that everyone enjoyed a wonderful summer break – although given the very obvious change in weather summer does now feel like a distant memory! I would like to extend a warm welcome to the families of those new students joining us, whether they be in Year 7 or in other year groups. As a heads up this is a jam-packed newsletter so please do grab yourself a cuppa before sitting down to read it!

I just wanted to start off by saying a huge congratulations to our Class of 2026 on their exceptional GCSE outcomes. This cohort received the highest number of grade 5+ and 7+ in subjects including English and Maths and we also received the highest percentage of grade 9s ever! The majority of students achieved their target grades and our Attainment 8 score (the average grade across 8 subjects) was the highest it has ever been. So, a huge well done and we wish them all well on their next steps.

And as we bid farewell to one year group, we start the year afresh. And what a fabulous first week we had for this new academic year. We were delighted to welcome our new Class of 2031 on Wednesday. This cohort are off to an exceptional start already; they all look incredibly smart, they are working hard in their lessons; they are forming new friendships and they are fully embodying our core values of “We are Respectful; We are Responsible; We are Ready”. I am truly excited to see what these young people achieve during their time here at TDA. Many thanks to those parents/carers who attended the Year 7 Information Evening on Wednesday. The slides from this can be found [here](#). Thank you to those parents who have reached out regarding ParentPay; if you anyone is continuing to have any issues with their logins please contact us and we will ensure that we work hard to rectify this as a priority. Please be reassured that we will ensure that all young people are fed! We will resend all ParentPay details as well as Classcharts and MyEd logins will be sent out to Year 7 parents/carers over the coming days so please look out for this.

On Wednesday we also welcomed back our Year 11 students, who have come back from the summer with a real sense of determination and ambition. It was wonderful to see so many of them with their



parents/carers at our Year 11 Information Evening on Thursday where we discussed how we can all work together to ensure that every student in the Class of 2027 can achieve their academic and holistic potential in readiness for when they leave TDA. The presentation for this can be found [here](#) Mr Fessey, Mrs D'Costa and I have been popping into many Year 11 lessons and their focus and work ethic has been exemplary – keep it up Year 11s!

On Thursday Years 8, 9 & 10 returned and it has been lovely to see our school community reunited. This year we are focusing heavily on our sense of belonging as a school community and it has been wonderful to see the students all embrace their new lessons, catching up with each other after the summer break and make such a fabulous start to the year. Staff have commented on the positivity and drive that so many of our students have displayed already in lessons, along with how they have been out and about around the school supporting the new Year 7 students, really encompassing what a school community is all about. We look forward to welcoming parents to our Information Evenings for Years 8, 9 & 10 over the next couple of weeks.

Hopefully you will have received my letter towards the end of the summer break regarding attendance; it won't have escaped your attention that there is a strong drive from the DfE with regards to this. We know that when students attend regularly, they not only learn more and therefore achieve more academically; but they also build up friendships, develop confidence and have that sense of belonging as a valued part of our school community. We also understand that improving attendance doesn't always happen overnight. Every day counts and a child attending one more day this week than last week is making progress worth celebrating. This is why this year we are launching a number of attendance initiatives to celebrate and encourage progress in attendance. These include:

- "Here Today, Win Tomorrow" – if students are in school on one day, the following day their name will be in a prize draw for a voucher from the canteen. This will be awarded at muster – if the student is not there, then unfortunately they will not receive it.
- Birthday cards and treats – if students are in school on their birthday (or the Friday/Monday before if it falls on a weekend) they will receive a card and a treat. This will be awarded at muster – if the student is not there, then unfortunately they will not receive it.
- 100% attendance award for the first 2 weeks – we know how crucial the start of term is, with data informing us that those who miss a day during the first week go on to struggle more with attendance over the year – setting the routines early is key.
- Fortnightly tutor group attendance awards – each fortnight the tutor group in the school with the top attendance and most improved attendance will win a prize
- Weekly £5 amazon voucher prizes for students with 100% attendance for that week.
- Termly prizes for the students with the most improved attendance

We know that strong school attendance is built through positive partnerships between home and school – thank you for your support...every morning routine, every conversation and every encouraging word makes a difference. As a gentle reminder, only unavoidable appointments should be made for during school time and holidays will be unauthorised apart from in exceptional



circumstances. Many thanks for your support with this. If you wish to speak to someone about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact attendance@thedeacademy.org.

As you will have read in my end of term letter, the government have made it a statutory requirement for all schools to ensure that young people don't have access to smartphones and devices throughout the school day; it forms part of the Keeping Children Safe in Education safeguarding document that all schools have to adhere to. Following our hugely successful initiative last year where we trialled Year 7 & 8 handing their phones in, from the start of this academic year all students from Years 7- 11 will be handing their mobile phone in to their tutor at the start of the day and we will have a 5-minute tutor period at the end of the day where they will collect them. Throughout the day, the phones will be stored in a lockable box that will be in a locked safe place. We appreciate that for many of our learners not having their mobile phone on their person will be a challenge, however; given all the research on the negative impact that smartphones have on the mental health of young people, we are pleased that this initiative will provide our learners with an education that is free from distractions and dependency upon their mobile phone and the constant pressures that come with this. Students that require their phones for medical purposes (e.g. if there is an app that is required to support managing their health condition) will obviously be exempt and staff will be made aware of who these young people are. I appreciate that this is a shift for many of our young people and would like to thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that all students hand in their phones and on the rare occasion that a student may not, that you are supporting us in following our behavioural procedures.

Another significant change I just wanted to make you aware of is the introduction of Benedict's Law which comes in to force this September. This law strengthens requirements for supporting young people with allergies and other medical needs in school. As a parent myself of a young person with a dietary triggered auto-immune disease I personally welcome this. You will have received an email asking you to ensure that we have up to date information with regards to students with specific medical needs – thank you in advance for completing this and your cooperation in ensuring we can keep all our students safe. Our allergy policy will be going to our LGB for ratification at the first meeting and then will be accessible via our website.

The start of the year is a very good time to ensure that all of our young people are ready for making the most of every lesson. To support them with this, every tutor time will now include an equipment check. If students do not have the correct equipment we will lend them some in their lessons but will also be contacting home asking for your support with this. If students persistently attend school without the correct equipment we will follow our behaviour procedures. An outline of the equipment that students need to be bringing to school was in my end of year letter/Y7 information pack, but as a gentle reminder please see the slide that we will use every morning. Please note for the time being we understand that calculators may not have been delivered, especially if ordered via school, so there will be no follow up on this.



THE DEAN
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Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

And in spite of only entering week 2 of this academic year, we are looking towards welcoming the new Class of 2032 to TDA with our Open Evening event on Thursday 24th September and our Open Mornings. We will be inviting our TDA students to be involved in Open Evening over the coming couple of weeks, whether that is supporting in faculty areas or helping out with the tours and we will be sending home permission letters about this. If you, or someone you know, is thinking about The Dean Academy for a child that is currently in Year 5 or Year 6 you can find more information about our Open Evening and our "Everyday Open day" tours on our website page ([The Dean Academy](https://www.thedeacademy.org)). Please note that following Open Evening, Friday 25th September will be an INSET day and school won't be open to students.

From next week we will be launching our clubs and extra-curricular societies – this information will be shared via our social media and I will include in upcoming bulletins. With this in mind, here is a message from a couple of my colleagues: *"We are very excited to be launching our Zoology and Botany Club at the TDA which will be running on Fridays, after school from 3:15 to 4:15. Our aims of this club are to grow and nurture our collection of plants and animals to provide opportunities for education and conservation whilst enabling our students to take responsibility for their care. We also wish to provide opportunities for our students to enhance their understanding of and contribute to improving nature conservation. In order to get this club up and running we are in need of some more animals to join our collection. Therefore, if you have animals (obviously those that schools are permitted to care for!) and/or equipment which you would be willing to donate to the school please could you contact Mr Davis (sdavis@thedeacademy.org) and provide him with the details. We are particularly interested in invertebrate and reptiles. Many thanks for your support, Kind regards, Mr Davis and Mr Lince."*

And finally, from me, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone in our school community who contributed to our fundraising efforts at the end of last academic year. Our Walk in the Woods raised a phenomenal £1500 for the Teenage Cancer Trust and was a fabulous day of hiking and building relationships outside in the wonderful Forest of Dean. And at our DeanStock for Tyler we managed to raise £2000 in just 4 hours which I know will make such a difference to Tyler and his family in supporting his rehabilitation. I think these just go to show what an incredible school community we have here at TDA.

This has been a bit of a bumper edition with lots of new information so thank you for your time in reading this and for working with us to support your young person to have a successful journey this academic year at TDA – I am very excited to see what we all achieve together.

With best wishes for the week ahead,

Hannah Rowlands
Headteacher

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LETTERS SENT HOME W/C 2nd SEPTEMBER 2026

Year 7 Information Evening Sept 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Year-7-Information-Evening-Sept-2026.pdf>

Year 8 Information Evening Sept 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Year-8-Information-Evening-Sept-2026.pdf>

Year 9 Information Evening Sept 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Year-9-Information-Evening-Sept-2026.pdf>

Year 10 Information Evening Sept 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Year-10-Information-Evening-Sept-2026.pdf>

Year 11 Information Evening Sept 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Year-11-Information-Evening-Sept-2026.pdf>

Open Evening 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Open-Evening-2026-Letter.pdf>

Year 11 Prom Point System 2026

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Y11-Prom-Point-System-2026-Letter.pdf>

Year 9 Sex Education letter

<https://thedeanaacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Year-9-Sex-Education-Letter-Sept-2026.pdf>



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FORTHCOMING DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 14 th & Tuesday 15 th September	Re-arranged Year 5 Taster Days CATS all week
Tuesday 15 th September	4.30 – 5.00 p.m. Year 8 Information Evening
Monday 21 st September	CATS all week
Tuesday 22 nd September	Open Morning Tours begin (please see website to book)
Wednesday 23 rd September/Thursday 24 th September	Year 10 Geography Rivers Fieldwork Trips
Thursday 24 th September	Year 5/6 Open Evening
Friday 25 th September	Inset Day

The Dean Academy Equipment Checklist



Pencil



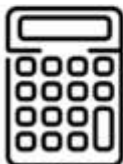
Green pen



Blue/Black pen



Ruler



Calculator



Eraser



Highlighter

All of your equipment should be kept safely in a pencil case which is stored in a bag. If you do not have any item of equipment, contact home will be made and you will accrue a negative point on ClassCharts.

It is important that all students take **RESPONSIBILITY** for coming into school **READY** to learn in their lessons and achieve their potential.



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**STRONG GIRLS.
STRONGER TOGETHER.** ♥

GIRLS RUGBY

WE WANT YOU. ♥

WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO THE GAME
OR HAVE PLAYED **BEFORE**,
THERE'S A PLACE FOR **YOU** HERE.

- MAKE FRIENDS
FOR LIFE
- BUILD CONFIDENCE
& STRENGTH
- LEARN. GROW.
PLAY.
- BE PART OF
SOMETHING BIGGER

TRAINING

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS	FRIDAY NIGHTS
6:30PM – 8:00PM	6:00PM – 7:00PM

★ ALL ABILITIES WELCOME ♥

AGE GROUPS	GET IN TOUCH	GET INVOLVED
U14'S U16'S SCHOOL YEARS 8-11	Phone Mike 07545276917 Phone Jim 01473835382 Email lydneyrfc@btinternet.com	JOIN US!

ONE TEAM. ♥ ONE HEART. ♥ ALL IN.

