



7 September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Welcome back**

I hope you all had a lovely summer and may I welcome you back to another academic year at The Deanes. I would also like to extend a special welcome to the parents of our new Year 7 students.

This week, I presented in assemblies to all of our students. The title of the assembly - *'Success at The Deanes'*.

This year's GCSE results showed a rise of around 10% across the majority of measures. We are very pleased with this improvement in examination results and I would like to congratulate all of the students for their commitment and hard work.

Throughout the summer, I have been pondering why some students have greater success than others when they all have similar opportunities at The Deanes. We are fully staffed with qualified specialist teachers with excellent subject knowledge, we have an inclusive and aspirational ethos, we have excellent facilities, a very strong pastoral system and a rich curriculum that offers lots of opportunities for learning and the pursuit of personal passions. So, in theory all the ingredients are present. Of course, I am very aware that as a school we can be even better and we are striving to make improvements as quickly as possible. But it seems to me that for some students, the ingredient that will make the most difference is their capacity and willingness to work hard. For most students, it is a simple truth that if they work hard, they will do well. This comes largely down to motivation.

My message to the students was to start the year as they mean to continue; with high motivation and a determination to succeed. This is especially important to our Year 11 students who have roughly about 24 school weeks left until the start of their examinations.

The most important factor for success is a student's attendance. Attendance percentages can be misleading. For example, if we achieve 95% in a test, we would rightfully be very pleased. However, 95% attendance is actually low, as it equates to 10 days of school missed, which is 50 lessons. Research has shown that students who miss 17 days or more achieve on average 1 grade lower per GCSE subject. It is imperative that your child's attendance remains at least above 96% otherwise their success will be hindered.



At the end of each assembly, I reminded the students that at The Deanes we look after each other. As a community, it is very important that we work together in order to ensure that our students succeed. I used a quote from the American Poet, Maya Angelou: *“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel”*. This quote sums up our ‘iMatter’ ethos at The Deanes.

### Changes at The Deanes

We are very pleased to welcome some new members of staff and we have also changed some of the staff responsibilities with immediate effect. Mr Parry is responsible for the training and development of recently qualified teaching staff. Miss Douglass has taken over from him as Programme Leader for P.E. and Sport, and is overseeing Student Leadership. Mrs Derome is now Director of Key Stage 3, looking after Years 7 and 8. Mr Turp remains the Director of Key Stage 4 focusing on Years 9 and 10, while Miss Corp, Raising Standards Leader, will focus on Year 11. Mrs Stroud is our named SENCO and manages the SEN Department at The Deanes. She will also be developing SEN practice across the CMAT schools.

As well as our new Year 7s starting, we are proud to welcome our new members of staff. Mr Law is our Programme Leader for Science, Mr Winkworth - Lead Practitioner in Science, Mrs Slayford - Lead Practitioner in English, Ms Hodson - Teacher of Spanish and Miss Fanning joins us in the Humanities Department. Mrs Spicer and Ms Cameron have joined our Learning Support Department.

I would also like to remind you that the new timings of the school day has now commenced. On Fridays school will finish at 13:10. The school bus will leave at 13:30 and the canteen will be open for snacks from 13:10 to 13:30. Detailed below are the timings of the school day for the whole week.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
08:30 a.m.	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial
08:50 a.m.	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1	Lesson 1
09:50 a.m.	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2	Lesson 2
10:50 a.m.	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:10 a.m.	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3	Lesson 3
12:10 p.m.	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4	Lesson 4
13:10 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	School Ends
13:50 p.m.	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	Lesson 5	
14:50 p.m.	Lesson 6	School Ends	School Ends	School Ends	
15:50 p.m.	School Ends				

Every Friday, Sports Clubs are available from 13:30 until 15:00 and will be supervised by qualified instructors and coaches (these clubs on a Friday are free). If your child wishes to take part in a club, they should ensure they have the correct P.E. kit and equipment. I must stress that these clubs are not compulsory and do not form part of the school day.

## **Open Evening**

As I am sure you are aware, our annual Open Evening takes place on Tuesday 26 September 2017, from 18:30 through to 21:00. This is a very important event in our school calendar as it gives us the opportunity to show case our excellent work to prospective parents and students. I am sure you will appreciate a lot of hard work goes into this evening from all staff, students and parent/carer helpers. In order to ensure that the school is fully operational after this event, we will have a late start on Wednesday 27 September 2017. On the 27 September, students should arrive ready for Period 3 at 11:10 and go directly to their lesson, where they will be registered.

## **Non-Uniform Day**

Being part of CMAT (Challenger Multi-Academy Trust) provides a wealth of opportunities for our students. In 2019, we will be taking part in an expedition to the Himalayas. In order to plan this amazing adventure, three of our students will be going to the Himalayas on a fact finding expedition later this term. In order to assist them with their fundraising, we will be holding a non-uniform day on Wednesday 27 September. This is the day the students start at 11:10 as explained above. We will be asking staff and students for a minimum donation of £1 per student for the privilege of not wearing school uniform.

## **Twitter**

We regularly update The Deanes Twitter feed, *@DeanesSchool*. This is a great place to see photos and updates of daily life at the school. Departments also have Twitter feeds. I would encourage all parents/carers to follow us so you can stay up to date.

I look forward to a very successful forthcoming year at The Deanes and I thank you in advance for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Mr D McKeown  
Headteacher