

*'A tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season'*  
(Psalm 1:3)



Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 18  
July 2025



# The Deanery Way

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw the academic year 2024–2025 to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments and developments that have shaped our school community over the past twelve months. It has been a year marked by growth, achievement, and a deepening of the values that underpin our ethos as a Church of England Academy.

This term, our students have demonstrated exceptional commitment, resilience and skill in a range of sporting disciplines. Our recent annual Sports Day was a particular highlight, with several long-standing records being surpassed – a testament to the dedication and talent of our pupils. Our cricket team has enjoyed a successful season, competing with skill and sportsmanship and there have been inspiring individual achievements in athletics.

Our annual Talent Show was once again a resounding success, showcasing the remarkable creativity and confidence of our students. From musical performances to dramatic pieces, the evening was a celebration of the diverse gifts within our school community.

Students participating in our Future Leaders Programme concluded their year with a visit to Bath University, where they engaged in a series of workshops and leadership activities. Their exemplary conduct and thoughtful contributions were commended by university staff, reflecting the maturity and potential of our young leaders.

Our recent SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection affirmed the strength of our Christian vision and values. The report highlighted our commitment to nurturing the whole child and fostering a culture of respect, compassion, and aspiration. In particular the role the School Council has played in shaping the direction of the Academy this year. Through thoughtful dialogue and collaborative initiatives, they have influenced key decisions and championed student-led improvements across the school.

We are proud to announce the forthcoming opening of our Complex Needs Unit in September 2025. This purpose-built facility will provide tailored support for students with additional needs, ensuring that every child at The Deanery has access to an inclusive and nurturing educational environment.

We were delighted to host our Year 6 Transition Days, which were met with enthusiasm and positivity from all involved. These days provided a valuable opportunity for our incoming Year 7 students to familiarise themselves with the Academy and begin building relationships that will support their journey ahead. We look forward to formally welcoming them in September.

As we approach the summer break, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our staff, students, and families for their unwavering support and dedication. It is through our shared commitment that The Deanery continues to thrive as a place of learning, growth, and community. At this point in the year, we do have some members of staff moving on to new pastures – we thank them for their service and we wish them all the very best for the future: Mrs Koza, Mr Bason, Ms Davies, Mrs Godfrey, Mr Parry, Ms Instone and Mr Villanueva.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another year of opportunity and excellence.

Best wishes,

Mr Young

# Service

*"... in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"*



## Young Carers Fundraiser



We would like to say THANK YOU to all those people who bought ice creams, cakes and sweets on Sports Day

We raised an amazing **£260** to support our Young Carers in School!

The money will be used to provide activities and events for our students who have to be responsible for others.

We have some ice cream left, so will be selling more before the end of the school year so thank you in advance!!!

# Resilience

*"I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me"*

## World Challenge Borneo 2025 Departure

Our Borneo 2025 expedition has officially begun! After months of preparation, training, and teamwork, our group of adventurous students has landed in Malaysia and are now settled into their homestays in Kuching, fully immersed in the rich and vibrant culture of Borneo.

Over the coming weeks, students will be embodying our school values of *resilience, service, hope, and wisdom* as they take on a journey that will challenge and inspire them in equal measure. They will trek through the breath-taking rainforests of Bako National Park, camping in the wild and pushing their physical and mental limits. At the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, they will experience first-hand the importance of conservation as they help care for rescued orangutans. Later, they will work alongside a local community to restore the footpath to the iconic Batu Caves, supporting sustainable tourism and leaving a lasting, positive impact.

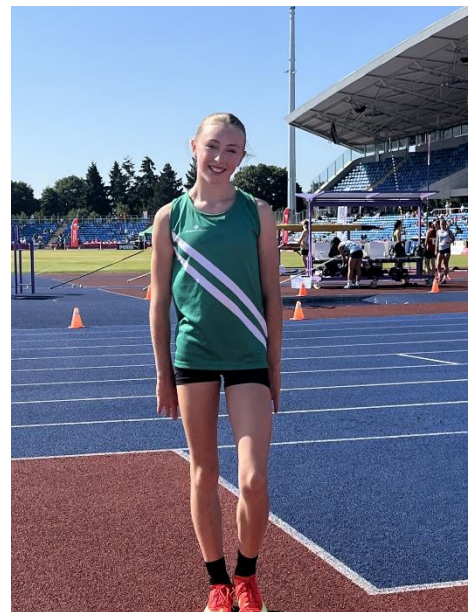
This expedition is more than just a trip — it's an opportunity for students to grow, to serve others, and to see the world through new eyes. We are proud of each and every participant for stepping out of their comfort zones and embracing this journey with open hearts and minds. And for fundraising collectively over £30,000!

Stay tuned for updates from the team as the adventure continues! – Our ground team back at the Deanery will be posting regular updates on the school's Facebook page and X profile.

We look forward to sharing our stories in September!

*Miss Case, Miss Wright and Mr Bryars*

Well done to Lowri in Year 8 who has recently been in Birmingham at the National Schools Athletics Championships competing in the pole vault. She had subsequently qualified through the Swindon Schools, Wiltshire Schools and South West School rounds in order to get the amazing opportunity. Lowri did exceptionally well finishing in the top 10 in the country for her age group!! A great accomplishment and one to build on for future.



# Wisdom

*"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding"*

We are thrilled to introduce our new logo to remind us of our vision and values. A symbol that embodies the core values we hold dear: **wisdom, hope, service, and resilience**. This logo is the result of a creative competition, and we are proud to announce that the winning design was crafted by Edwards S in year 9.



Our new logo for our vision and values is more than just a visual identity; it represents our commitment to making a positive impact and our dedication to these guiding principles. Wisdom guides our decisions, hope fuels our aspirations, service drives our actions, and resilience strengthens us in the face of challenges.

Please join us in celebrating this new chapter and the inspiring design by Edward S that will lead us forward.

# Hope

*"I have come so that you may have life in all its fullness"*

## The Future Leaders Award at The Deanery

A number of Year 10 pupils have had the opportunity to take part in this new initiative at The Deanery.

The Future Leaders programme empowers young people aged 14-19 to plan pathways to their ambitions and develop essential skills, behaviours and knowledge to reach their potential.

Our young leaders were equipped to envision a range of possible education and career pathways for themselves and were offered a blend of personalised coaching, skills development and immersive experiences. The programme encouraged them to develop a greater range of "possible selves", nurturing self-belief and supporting them to realise their ambitions.

The programme supports you to:

- Develop motivation, responsibility and curiosity
- Build confidence and self-belief in reaching your goals
- Learn to map pathways for success and make effective decisions
- Have a positive impact on your school or college
- Be self-reflective and thoughtful

Coaching	Leadership and Challenge	Skills and Subject Courses
Explore purpose and values, clarify what is important to achieve, and make a plan to get there.	Create, manage and deliver a project which impacts positively on your school community and peers	Develop academic skills, abilities and knowledge which support your chosen pathway, online and in person.

### Residential Experiences

Year 10s experienced a 3-night residential at Bath University and had a true taste of university life. This event provided an insight into academic study and student life, making higher education feel accessible, exciting, and achievable. A great time was had by all!

### Future Leaders are:

Alyssya D, Nevaeh G-B, Henry H, Maisey L, Sophie Y, Issy C, Jessica P, Lily G, Bethany M, Benjamin L and Stanley S.



### **Photo Highlights: Project work and quiz winners!**



Villiers Park Vision and Mission Villiers Park is a national social mobility charity committed to developing young people's personal, academic and employability skills. Our vision is a world in which everyone can realise their potential and lead society towards an equitable and healthy future.

Get in touch: [www.villierspark.org.uk](http://www.villierspark.org.uk) | [programmes@villierspark.org.uk](mailto:programmes@villierspark.org.uk)



Company no: 11443649 | Registered charity no: 1179436



## Safeguarding

Have you heard of Vault Apps? They are essentially secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app.

For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts.

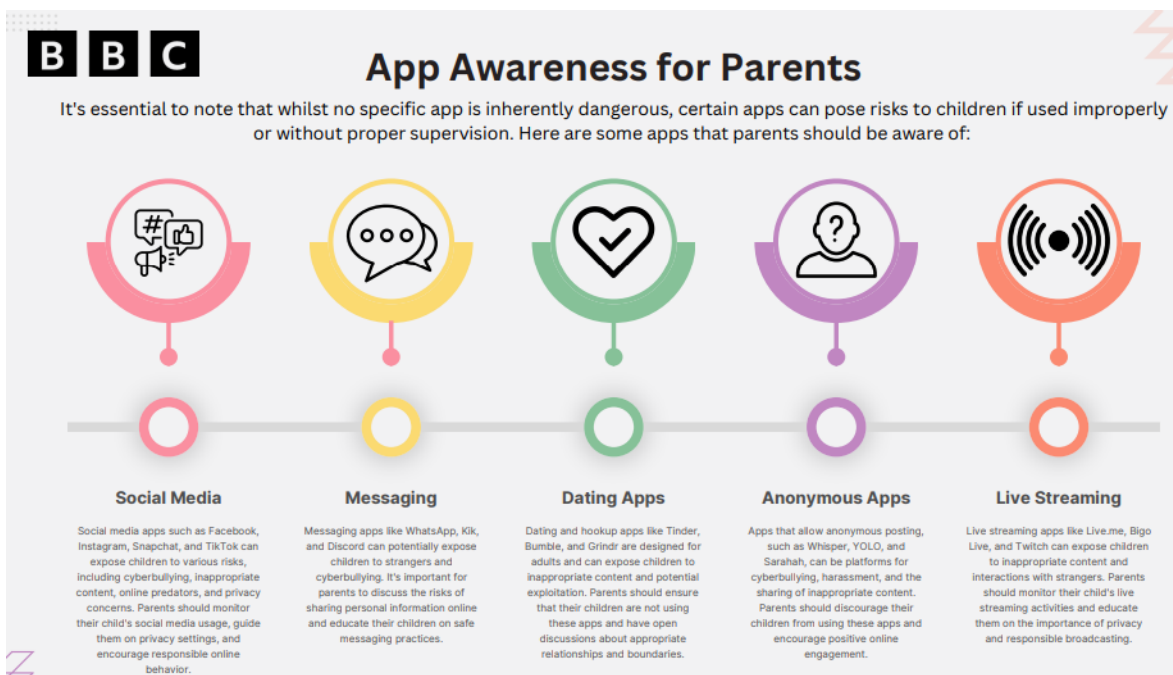
Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/safeguarding/documents/app-awareness-for-parents-2.pdf>

**B B C**

### App Awareness for Parents

It's essential to note that whilst no specific app is inherently dangerous, certain apps can pose risks to children if used improperly or without proper supervision. Here are some apps that parents should be aware of:

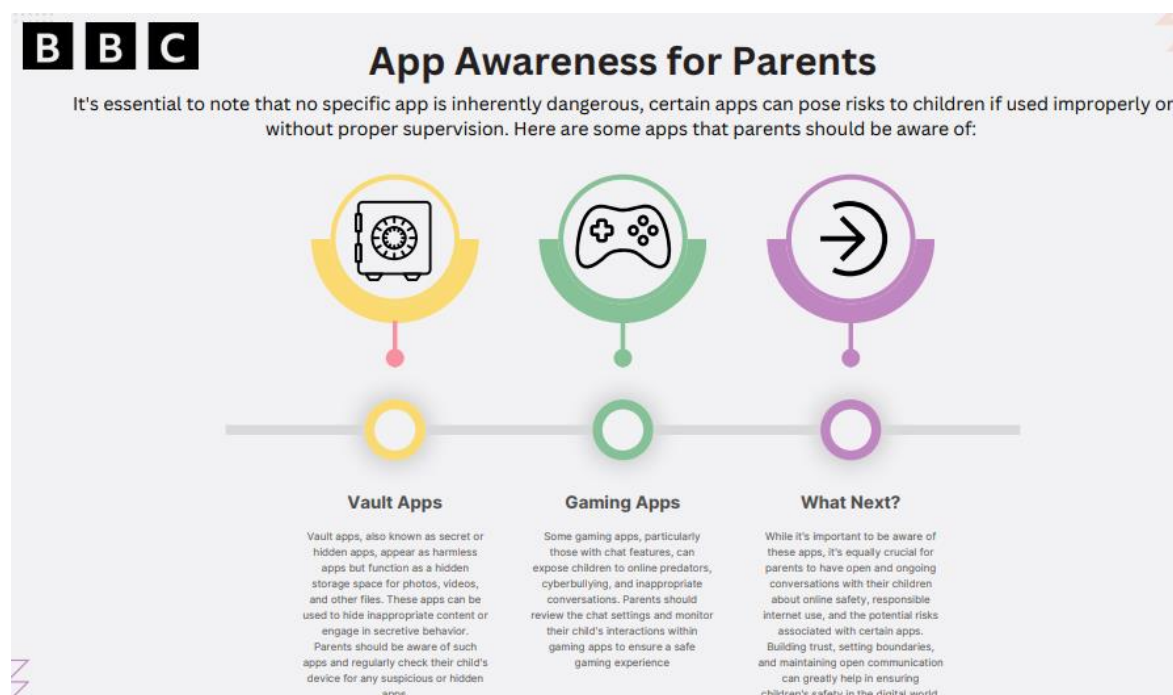


- Social Media**  
Social media apps such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok can expose children to various risks, including cyberbullying, inappropriate content, online predators, and privacy concerns. Parents should monitor their child's social media usage, guide them on privacy settings, and encourage responsible online behavior.
- Messaging**  
Messaging apps like WhatsApp, Kik, and Discord can potentially expose children to strangers and cyberbullying. It's important for parents to discuss the risks of sharing personal information online and educate their children on safe messaging practices.
- Dating Apps**  
Dating and hookup apps like Tinder, Bumble, and Grindr are designed for adults and can expose children to inappropriate content and potential exploitation. Parents should ensure that their children are not using these apps and have open discussions about appropriate relationships and boundaries.
- Anonymous Apps**  
Apps that allow anonymous posting, such as Whisper, YOLO, and Sarahah, can be platforms for cyberbullying, harassment, and the sharing of inappropriate content. Parents should discourage their children from using these apps and encourage positive online engagement.
- Live Streaming**  
Live streaming apps like Live.me, Bigo Live, and Twitch can expose children to inappropriate content and interactions with strangers. Parents should monitor their child's live streaming activities and educate them on the importance of privacy and responsible broadcasting.

**B B C**

### App Awareness for Parents

It's essential to note that no specific app is inherently dangerous, certain apps can pose risks to children if used improperly or without proper supervision. Here are some apps that parents should be aware of:



- Vault Apps**  
Vault apps, also known as secret or hidden apps, appear as harmless apps but function as a hidden storage space for photos, videos, and other files. These apps can be used to hide inappropriate content or engage in secretive behavior. Parents should be aware of such apps and regularly check their child's device for any suspicious or hidden apps.
- Gaming Apps**  
Some gaming apps, particularly those with chat features, can expose children to online predators, cyberbullying, and inappropriate conversations. Parents should review the chat settings and monitor their child's interactions within gaming apps to ensure a safe gaming experience.
- What Next?**  
While it's important to be aware of these apps, it's equally crucial for parents to have open and ongoing conversations with their children about online safety, responsible internet use, and the potential risks associated with certain apps. Building trust, setting boundaries, and maintaining open communication can greatly help in ensuring children's safety in the digital world.

# Deanery Careers update

## Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme

### Help your child to explore their future

As the academic year comes to a close, we can reflect on a very positive year for Careers at the Deanery. In March we hosted our very first Careers Fayre which was a great success and more recently we did some fantastic experiences for Year 7 students with the Guess My Job event. Year 9's had a brilliant day with the Young Enterprise business competition, developing their team work and speaking skills. Year 8 students did a construction visit to Beard Construction at the Health Hydro and Year 10 students have been very busy this term. They have successfully been using our innovative digital careers platform Xello in PSHE lessons, to explore their interests, supported by lots of events, which are explained below.

### New College Swindon 'Experience Days'

Year 10 students had two superb days, sampling lessons and College life at Queens Drive and North Star campuses. We had over 150 students over the two days and the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are feeling more confident about their Post-16 options. It was an excellent opportunity to sample life as an FE student, engaging in a range of 'A' Level, 'T' Level, or other Level 2 or Level 3 equivalent subjects, along with discovering the excellent facilities available at these campuses.



### Cirencester College 'Post-16 Choices Day'

On Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July Year 10 students had opportunity to experience life as a student at Cirencester College. The day was focussed on students wanting to study 'A' Level, 'T' Level or BTEC Level 3 programmes. Students really enjoyed the experience and will help in deciding their Post-16 plans.



### Year 10 Career appointments

Most Year 10 students have had their individual careers appointment with a level 6 careers and guidance counsellor. This is to help students set goals and create a plan for their Post-16 education and future careers. Students have been extremely positive about their experience and it has really helped with their planning for their post-16 education.



FutureSmartCareers

### Big Business Day 2025 – Inter-school enterprise competition

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July, Ms. Byrne and I took 23 Year 10 students to take part in the Big Business Day enterprise competition. Students had to work in teams to come up with a viable business, pitch it to the expert judges and compete against teams from other schools. They were also able to listen to some inspiration talks from business leaders from the South West and hear first hand about their career journeys. I am very happy to say that the Deanery came joint first! Our teams did particularly well, and students should be proud of the way they represented the school and pitched their ideas to the judges and audience.









# Sporting achievements

## Athletics

62 students represented the Deanery at the Swindon Schools Athletics Championships. This event was spread over two days with all year groups representing the school in a range of track and field events. The Deanery had some fantastic results with some of our year 9 and 10 teams winning their events.

Que placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m race and threw a javelin 30meters, Mayah Placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 300m race and year 10 boys won the relay. Carys won the 1500m and Kayah won 800m.

The second day our year 7 and 8s were very successful throughout the day with many of our student's placing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in their events. Our year 8 boys came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall on the day with Alfie placing 1<sup>st</sup> on the triple jump, Joel 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 100m and Benji placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m. The year 8 boys relay team consisting of Benji, Joel, Alfie and Elliot won 1<sup>st</sup> place for the Deanery.

The year 8 girls had a very successful day also with Ruth placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the 100m, Mutiat 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m and Lowri placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the hurdles and high jump. The year 8 relay consisting of Lowri, Ruth, Mutiat and Lillie came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the race.

Our year 7 boys and girls who attended their first ever Swindon Schools Athletics Championships, the 7s did a fantastic job and worked really hard throughout the day. Clara placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100m race with Aniyah came 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 800m. Both girls and boys relay teams working hard throughout their race and came in respectable places. Well done to our year 7s, 8s, 9s and 10s.

## Rounders

This academic year we saw a huge surge in numbers across year 7, 8 and 9. Over 40 girls came to rounders enrichment this year and represented the Deanery in many matches against different schools within Swindon. The girls did a fantastic job this year and we are thrilled with the number of girls interested in the enrichment this year.

## Cricket

The year 9 and 10 boys cricket team have made their way through to the finals beating Commonweal with a score of 79 and 1 and a half overs to spare in the semi-finals, and beat Lawn Manor in the quarter finals of the competition. Good luck boys for the final.

## Sports day

This year the whole school took part in the school sports day, the day itself saw students taking part in various morning activities. Students opted to choose various career options which the sport industry has to offer such as sports nutrition, sports analysis and sports journalism. The morning also gave students the opportunity to choose a range of alternative sports such as Pickleball, Boccia and Volleyball.

On the day itself we had over 15 students beat school records, Aniyah in year 7 won the 800m race and set a new school record, Lowri in year 8 won the high jump and set a new school record with 1.40m as well as Jack in year 10 winning the high jump with a new school record of 1.46m. The day itself was fantastic with an amazing atmosphere where the PE department won the staff relay.



# The Deanery Sports Day 2025













## New sports day records

<u>Name</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Record</u>
Clara	Girls Y7	100m	14.73s
Ruth	Girls Y8	100m	14.20s
Elliot	Boys Y8	100m	12.48
Cedric	Boys Y10	100m	12.19s
Aniyah	Girls Y7	200m	32.35s
Cue	Boys Y10	200m	24.45s
Kayah	Girls Y10	200m	30.72s
Lowri	Girls Y8	300m	46.85s
Alfie	Boys Y8	300m	47.69s
Mayah	Girls Y10	300m	45.44
Aniyah	Girls Y7	800m	3.07m
Billy	Boys Y9	800m	2.28m
Julian	Boys Y7	High Jump	1.05m
Iris and Clara	Girls Y7	High Jump	1.11m
Lowri	Girls Y10	High Jump	1.44m
Harrison	Boys Y9	High Jump	1.31m
Jack	Boys Y10	High Jump	1.46m
Maddie	Girls Y10	High Jump	1.25m
Jacob	Boys Y8	Javelin	30.11m
Esther	Girls Y9	Javelin	27.20m
Charlie	Boys Y9	Javelin	25.80m
Esther	Girls Y9	Discus	21.48m
Oliver	Boys Y9	Discus	28.69m
Daniel	Boys Y10	Discus	24.48m

# SEND

## 😊 Staying Calm During the Summer Holidays: A Guide for SEND Parents 😊

For many SEND families, summer can feel like a mix of sunshine and storm clouds. Here are some gentle strategies to help you stay calm, connected, and supported.

### 🕒 1. Keep a Flexible Routine

Children with SEND often feel safer with structure. Try to:

- Use a visual timetable with pictures, symbols or words
- Keep consistent mealtimes, quiet time, and outdoor play/walks etc
- Build in “buffer zones” between activities

📄 Let your child help plan the day—it gives them a sense of control.

### 🧘 2. Prioritise Your Own Calm

Your calm helps your child feel secure. Try to:

- Take mini breaks when possible
- Practice self-compassion—you're doing your best
- Ask for help when you need it

💬 Looking after yourself is not selfish—it's essential.

### 🎨 3. Embrace Low-Pressure Activities

Simple, sensory-friendly activities can be just as meaningful:

- Baking, Lego, nature walks, movie afternoons etc
- Create a “calm corner” with soft lighting and fidget toys
- Try guided yoga or calming music online

🌈 Rest is valuable too—don't feel pressured to fill every moment.

### 🤝 4. Connect with Others






**Swindon SEND  
Families Voice**

You're not alone. Stay connected in ways that work for you:


- Join local SEND-friendly events or online groups e.g. Swindon SEND Families Voice
- Arrange low-key meetups with understanding friends
- Share your experiences—it helps others too

 Look for local charities or Facebook groups offering summer support.

## 5. Let Go of the Pressure

You don't need a "perfect" summer. Focus on:

- Celebrating small wins
- Accepting that tough days happen
- Prioritising connection over perfection

 You are enough. Your child is enough. One gentle day at a time.



### **SIAS, The SEND information, advice and support service**

(previously known as SENDIASS) provides information advice and support about education, health and social care for children and young people from 0 to 25 years with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as their parents and carers.

You do not need to have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan to use this service.

- It is free, you will not need to pay for the services
- It is impartial, which means they don't take sides
- They are confidential, which means no-one will be told about the things you talk about unless you give your permission

For more information, see <https://www.swindonsias.org.uk/>



### **Parental meetings**

Please note that parental meetings will be held Tuesday and Thursday only via appointment only, unless it is an urgent matter.

*Dr. Kafka-Markey*

**Email address:** [kafka-markeyc@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:kafka-markeyc@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)

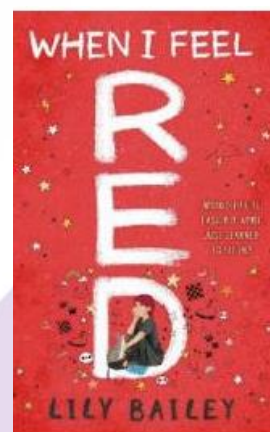
# Supporting Your SEND Child: Recommended Reads for Parents

Raising a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is a journey filled with unique joys and challenges. One of the most effective ways to support your child's emotional wellbeing and self-understanding is through books—especially those that speak directly to their experiences.

Whether your child is navigating big emotions, social situations, or self-identity, the right story can offer comfort, clarity, and connection. Below are some carefully chosen titles to support both younger children and young teenagers with SEND.

## ● ***When I Feel Red* by Becky Goddard-Hill**

**Focus:** Anger, frustration, and emotional regulation This engaging book helps children understand what anger feels like and offers practical, calming strategies. Ideal for children who struggle with emotional outbursts or sensory overload.

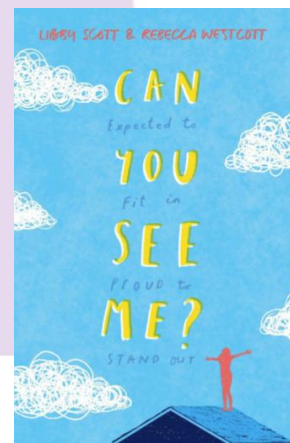


## ● ***When I Feel Blue* by Becky Goddard-Hill**

**Focus:** Sadness, low mood, and emotional wellbeing A gentle guide to recognising and managing feelings of sadness or anxiety. Includes mindfulness activities and journaling prompts to help children process emotions in a safe way.

## ☀ ***Can You See Me?* by Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott**

**Focus:** Autism, masking, and self-acceptance Co-written by a young autistic girl, this novel offers an authentic and moving portrayal of what it's like to navigate school and friendships while feeling different.



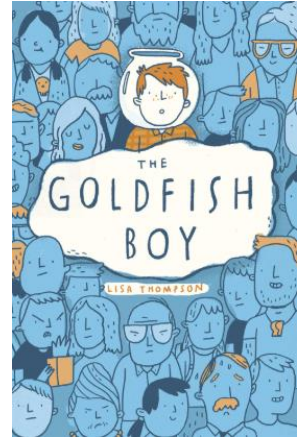
## ☀ ***A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll**

**Focus:** Neurodiversity, advocacy, and belonging Addie, an autistic girl, campaigns for a memorial to women persecuted as witches—drawing parallels to how society treats those who are different. Empowering and beautifully written.



## ☀️ **The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson**

**Focus:** OCD, anxiety, and friendship A mystery story told through the eyes of a boy with obsessive-compulsive disorder. A great way to explore mental health through a relatable and engaging narrative.



## ☀️ **Wonder by R.J. Palacio**

**Focus:** Facial difference, empathy, and inclusion A powerful story about kindness and acceptance, told from multiple perspectives. Encourages empathy and understanding of visible and invisible differences.

If you'd like more personalised recommendations or support, please don't hesitate to reach out to our SEND team.

We are delighted to share that attendance across our school has shown encouraging signs of improvement this year. Your continued support in ensuring students attend school regularly and punctually plays a vital role in their success, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you. **Our year-to-date attendance is 91.98%.**



## Attendance Matters



### **Why Attendance Matters**

Good attendance is closely linked to academic achievement, wellbeing, and future opportunities. Every day in school counts — helping students stay on track with their learning and maintain strong social connections.

Term times are for education, and children and families have 175 days off school to spend time together, including weekends and school holidays. Removing your child from school during term time is likely have a negative impact on their education. The Deanery do not authorise leave during term time for holiday or family visits. Please arrange these during the holidays.

### **Celebrating Success**

We're proud of the many students who have achieved excellent attendance this year (96 %). We will continue to recognise attendance and key achievements made by our students during celebration assemblies.

### **Working Together**

We understand that there are times when absence is unavoidable. If your child is facing any difficulties that affect their attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral or attendance teams. We are here to help and can work together to provide the right support.

Thank you once again for your partnership and commitment to your child's education. Let's continue working together to ensure every student makes the most of their time at school.

# Notices

**Reminder:** we're a **nut free school** due to serious allergies within the school community. Also, students should not be bringing and using aerosols in school as it is impacting staff and students who suffer from asthma.

**Important notice:** We understand that sometimes face to face meetings will be required between staff and parents/guardians. However, we respectfully request that these are pre-arranged and booked in with the relevant staff, and that parents/guardians **do not just arrive at the Academy** and expect staff to be available for a meeting. Please contact the members of staff via the academy email: [admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk) in the first instance to arrange an appointment.  
*Thank you for your support with this.*

## Absence reporting

If your child is unwell and will be absent from school, please call: **01793 236611** and leave a message, clearly stating your child's name, tutor group and reason for absence or report via ARBOR.

## Dates for the diary

A copy of the term dates calendar is available on our website: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/parent-information/school-information/term-dates/>

**17<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July** – Borneo trip

**Wednesday 23rd July** – End of the academic year (*school closes at lunchtime*)

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – Staff INSET (*school closed for students*)

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Year 7 and 11 ONLY return to school

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** – All students return

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September** – **School closes at 2.25pm** for Open Evening prep

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September** – Open evening (5pm – 7pm)

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September** – School photos

**Wednesday 17th September and Thursday 18th September 2025, 9.15 - 11.15am** – Open Mornings for Years 5&6

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October** – London Science trip

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** – Year 7 Avebury trip

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** - Blood brothers theatre trip

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** – Disney trip meeting 7pm

**22<sup>nd</sup> October** – End of term 1

**A reminder:** For queries, please use the main Academy email address:  
[admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk) and your email will be *forwarded* to the appropriate person.

We aim to acknowledge all emails **within 2 working days**, and to respond in full (*or arrange a meeting or phone call if appropriate*) within 5 working days.

If you feel your query requires an urgent response, please call the academy.

Our communication policy can be found here: <https://www.dcea.org.uk/important-information/policies/>

