

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



Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 21

February 2026

# The Deanery Way

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of Term 3, I am incredibly proud to reflect on the many achievements, acts of service, and moments of aspiration that continue to shape life here at The Deanery. Each newsletter reminds me not only of the talent within our community, but of the wisdom, hope, service and resilience that our students live out each day.

We have celebrated success across every area of school life. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors completed their Diana Award training with maturity and compassion, equipping themselves to make a meaningful difference in our school culture. Our creative arts students in Year 11 have made an excellent start on their exam units, demonstrating diligence, imagination and resilience.

Academic achievement remains a real strength of our community. Students in Years 10 and 11 showed exceptional problem-solving skills in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, with Mai and Lourdes progressing to the prestigious second round – an outstanding accomplishment on a national scale. We also extend our congratulations to Marvelous and Harmony in Year 9 for their success in the Western Front Association's "Forgotten Armies" competition, whose thoughtful work was recognised by the judges.

Beyond the classroom, students have continued to shine. Our Year 10 scientists embraced a unique learning opportunity during their seminars at Disneyland Paris, approaching each session with curiosity and professionalism. Our Key Stage 4 table tennis team became Swindon champions and now advance to the Wiltshire round – a superb effort and an exciting journey ahead.

Careers and aspirations have been a major focus this term. From employer workshops and STEM sessions, to visiting speakers and apprenticeship events, our students have been gaining invaluable insights into the possibilities that await them beyond school. Their engagement, questions and ambition have been a credit to them.

As always, safeguarding and wellbeing remain central to our mission. Thank you for your continued vigilance and partnership as we work together to keep every child safe, especially in response to concerning online trends. Together, we ensure that The Deanery remains a nurturing and protected environment.

Finally, I would like to thank our families for your ongoing support, your communication, and your trust in the work we do each day to enable our community to thrive. As we enter the half term break, I hope it offers each of you rest and time together. We look forward to working with you next term, which begins for students on Tuesday 24th February.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Young', written in a cursive style.

Mr Young

Executive Principal

# Chaplaincy

## Bibles going like hot cakes!

After 200 New Testament's were given away last year, I thought that as we approached Lent this year any opportunity for pupils to take away a Bible would likely be met with, if not apathy, then perhaps polite indifference. After all, apart from Y7, anyone who wanted one had already taken one, those that were left had already made their decision.

I could not have been more wrong.

As students left going up the stairs, those who wanted a Bible battled against the flow to come to the table taking a pocket-sized edition that should fit inside the blazer. Containing the 4 gospels – with the accounts of Jesus life, teachings, miracles, death and resurrection, these are the cornerstone of the Christian faith and a great place to start for an individual assessing the claims of the faith. Then there is 'Acts' an account of the explosive growth of churches throughout the Roman empire, powered by God's Holy Spirit, followed by a series of letters to these churches and individuals as they work out what it means to be a follower of Jesus, before the account of Revelation, an apocalyptic vision drawing back the curtain giving a behind the scenes view of God's work to bring evil to an end. This edition also contains the biblical book of Psalms – the song book of the bible, and Proverbs, ancient wisdom that still speaks truth today.

Well, of the 200 donated free of charge to The Deanery, I only had 23 left at the end of the week, and another 8 have gone today!

What I found interesting this year was that a number of children wanted to take two, giving a second to another family member, a mother, brother, grandma in India where they were travelling to, imminently. It was hard to deny that something was happening here beyond the transaction of receiving a book. Perhaps it is a sign of what Pete Grieg, founder of the 24-7 prayer movement observes, 'there is a markable, empirically measurable, increased interest and hunger [for God] ... this move of God seems to be stirring particularly among Gen Z.'

To help our young people engage with the bible we have devised a reading plan of the gospel or good news of John for Lent, starting on the Monday of term 4, the 23rd Feb, and whilst not strictly in Lent, finishing half way through Easter week. A copy of this plan is included in this newsletter. The book of John begins on page 223. You are welcome to take up the challenge too, and if you need a copy of the New Testament to join in, feel free to get in touch.

Peace be with you,

*Rev. Owen Green*

**Deanery and Kingfisher Chaplain,  
Tuesday and Wednesday.**



## Lent Challenge Reading Plan: John's Gospel



### WEEK 1

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

John 1:1-18

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February

John 1:19-34

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

John 1:35-50

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February

John 2:1-11

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February

John 2:12-25

### WEEK 2

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

John 3:1-21

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

John 3:22-36

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March

John 4:1-26

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

John 4:27-54

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March

John 5:1-30

### WEEK 3

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March

John 5:31-47

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

John 6:1-24

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March

John 6:25-59

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March

John 6:60-7:13

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

John 7:14-44

### WEEK 4

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March

John 7:45-8:11

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

John 8:12-30

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

John 8:31-59

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

John 9:1-34

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March

John 9:35-41

### WEEK 5

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

John 10:1-21

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March

John 10:22-42

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March

John 11:1-44

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March

John 11:45-57

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

John 12:1-11

### HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March

John 12:12-50

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March

John 13:1-38

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March

John 14:1-31

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April

John 15:1-16:33

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

John 17:1-18:40

Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April

John 19:1-37

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April

John 19:38-42

### EASTER WEEK

Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April  
(Morning)

John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April (Evening)

John 20:19-23

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April

John 20:24-30

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April

John 21:1-14

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

John 21:15-25

Each day you might like to try these activities. They start out as challenges, but the more you do them, the easier they get. After **Reading the passage**:

**Notice:** What stood out or confused you?

**Connect:** What does this mean for my life?

**Wonder:** What does this show us about Jesus?

**Pray:** You might like to pray a one sentence prayer bringing your thoughts to God.

**If you found something important to you, or something you don't understand you can speak to Owen**

# Service

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



## Lent 2026 "Drawing Near"

As we approach the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February, we are invited into a journey – not of simply giving up things for a time – but of *drawing nearer to God* and the life He calls us to live. This year, the Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is '**Draw Near: Life-giving Habits for Lent**'. The focus is on developing a rhythm of life that helps us grow as disciples of Christ through everyday practices of worship, prayer, Scripture, service and sharing the good news.

In our Deanery school community, we are guided by the values of **wisdom, hope, service** and **resilience** – and these values can shape how we respond to Lent with intention and joy. In this final week of term, we have been working in our tutor groups to '**create 40 days of service**' – small acts of selflessness and kindness that we can do throughout the season of Lent to spread some joy and draw nearer to God. You can watch and learn more about what Lent is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7JhI7XcUKY>

### Wisdom

Lent calls us to slow down and reflect. As we read Scripture and sit with God in prayer, we begin to gain deeper insight – not just into biblical stories, but into our own lives and choices. Wisdom grows when we make space for God's voice in the midst of our busy routines.

### Hope

Lent is a pilgrimage toward Easter hope, the promise that God can bring new life even from difficulty. As we follow the 40-day rhythm of life-giving habits, we discover again that God's presence is not distant – it is near to us in every step, even in moments of struggle.

### Service

One of the life-giving practices highlighted this Lent is service to others. As Jesus taught, when we serve those around us – especially the vulnerable – we are serving Christ himself. Lent invites us to look beyond ourselves, offering our time, attention and compassion to others in ways that reflect God's love.

### Resilience

Choosing to draw near to God is not always easy. It takes persistence – a daily return to prayer, to Scripture, to acts of kindness – even when life feels hard. This steadfastness, this perseverance in faith, is a powerful form of resilience. Through it, we learn that our strength does not come only from ourselves, but from God who walks with us.

*In this season of Lent, may we each take to heart the invitation to draw near—to one another, to God, and to the values that shape our school community. May our journey through Lent help us grow not only in faith, but in character, courage and love.*

**To find out more about the Church of England's theme for Lent 2026, download or order resources for your family or group, please visit:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-holy-week-and-easter/draw-near-life-giving-habits-lent>

*You can even download the Everyday Faith app for daily reflections*

**Mrs. Gallagher**

Associate Assistant headteacher (Humanities & SIAMS)



We recently had an amazing, fun-packed day taking part in **the Diana Award Anti-Bullying course** with 50 students. The day was full of engaging activities, discussions, and practical learning focused on how to tackle bullying in all its forms—both online and offline.

Together, we explored how to better engage with young people, parents, and teachers to change attitudes, behaviour, and the wider culture around bullying. The students built confidence and skills to recognise different situations, speak up, and support others in a positive and respectful way.

By the end of the day, we were proud to celebrate 50 newly trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, ready to make a real difference in their school community and help create a safer, kinder environment for everyone.



# Resilience

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



## A shout out to our Year 11 art, photography and textiles students!

They are working well with their exam unit, most getting off to a strong start, and to refer to the lesson breakdown if they are absent from lessons for any reason so that they can complete the work rather than falling behind. **Well done!**

**Miss. Pickles** – Head of Creative Arts



### Year 9 History Western Front Association competition prize winners!

As a part of the 2025 Remembrance Day commemorations, Year 9 History students were invited to enter a competition organised by the Western Front Association. They had to write a poem, a speech, or design a monument to commemorate the soldiers from ethnic backgrounds who fought in the First World War. The project was titled the "Forgotten Armies", to highlight the fact that these soldiers were often overlooked when the history of the First World War was written.

We had some outstanding entries from the Deanery, a fact which was recognised by the competition judges.

We are very proud to announce that the Western Front Association chose **Marvelous** as a Runner Up and also chose **Harmony** for a Commendation. Both students will receive official certificates for their work. Marvelous will also receive a prize from the Western Front Association for their work.

These are both excellent achievements and reflect the wisdom they have shown in their understanding of this very important historical matter.

The collage features several elements: a handwritten poem titled "In Trenches It Differed", another poem about "Common things", a photograph of three soldiers in uniform with the text "COMPETITION FORGOTTEN ARMIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR A Project with Prizes for 12-14 year olds", a golden trophy, and a certificate titled "Forgotten Armies of the First World War" which mentions "Marvelous" and "Harmony".

# Wisdom

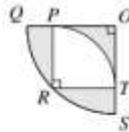
*"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding"*



## UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Success at Deanery!

Students from Years 10 and 11 recently took part in the **UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge**, a prestigious national competition designed to stretch able mathematicians through complex problem-solving and logical reasoning. The challenge encourages students to think creatively, tackle unfamiliar problems, and persevere when faced with tricky twists — skills that are essential both in mathematics and beyond.

12. Quarter circle  $PRT$  is removed from quarter circle  $OQS$  to leave three shaded regions, as shown.  $OPRT$  is a square and  $OP = 2x$ . What is the total area of the three shaded regions?



- A  $\frac{3x^2}{4}$       B  $x^2$       C  $2x^2$       D  $\frac{3\pi x^2}{4}$       E  $\pi x^2$

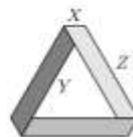
13. Noah writes down the numbers 1, 2, 4 and 13. He then adds a fifth integer  $x$  which then becomes the mean, median or mode of the five numbers. How many possible choices for  $x$  are there?

- A 2      B 3      C 4      D 5      E 6

14.  $PQR$  is an acute-angled triangle. Each of its angles, in degrees, is a triangular number. What is the smallest angle in the triangle?

- A  $21^\circ$       B  $28^\circ$       C  $36^\circ$       D  $45^\circ$       E  $55^\circ$

15. The diagram shows the UKMT logo, which is comprised of three identical parallelograms enclosing an equilateral triangle of side length  $Y$ . The ratio of the lengths  $X : Y : Z$  is 1 : 4 : 5. What is the ratio of the area of the enclosed triangle to the total area of the parallelograms?



- A 1 : 2      B 3 : 5      C 5 : 9      D 8 : 15      E 1 : 1

**Exceptional Achievement:** Mai and Lourdes Progress to Round 2

A very special congratulations goes to Mai and Lourdes in Year 11, who performed so exceptionally that they have qualified for Round 2 of the UKMT competition. Only a very small percentage of students nationally progress beyond the first round, making this a truly outstanding accomplishment.

Their success reflects not only impressive natural ability but also dedication, focus and a willingness to embrace challenging mathematical ideas. We wish them the very best as they prepare for the next stage of the competition.

We are immensely proud of all pupils who stepped up to take part and showed resilience, enthusiasm and ambition throughout the competition.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
<p><b>Esther V</b>  <b>Jayden E</b>  <b>Charlie F</b>  <b>Liam G</b>  <b>Harvey R</b>  <b>Edward S</b>  <b>Praval S</b>  <b>Mark S</b>  <b>Leo C</b>  <b>Matthew M</b></p>	<p><b>Daniel B</b>  <b>Sasha F</b>  <b>Alfie K</b>  <b>Philip N</b>  <b>Dibyansa T</b></p> <p><b>Bishan S</b> – Extra award for best in year 10  <b>Awen JO</b> – Extra award for best in year 10</p>	<p><b>Lourdes M</b>  <b>Mai H</b> – Extra award for best in school</p>

# Hope

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

## Swindon Table tennis Champions!

Well done to the key stage 4 boys table tennis team who won the Swindon round of the annual table tennis tournament. After winning a hard-fought game against Commonweal in the final, the boys now advance into the Wiltshire schools' round in March! **Good luck to them!**



## Science Seminars in Disneyland Paris

The year 10 Disney team arrived safely in the hotel last night (8th Feb) after a 12-hour coach journey, the students were all Deanery PROUD and made it very easy for staff.

Today we started the morning with plenty of French pastries followed by our seminars; learning about how rollercoasters are designed and created, about the technology involved in the drone and fireworks shows and the hormonal effects on the body while riding coasters. The wisdom showed in answering questions made Miss Case and Miss Wright very happy! After the seminar we headed into the Disneyland Park ready for an afternoon of shows, parades and of course rides!

**Please see Deanery social media to enjoy our daily updates and photos!**

*Miss Case and Team Disney*





# Deanery Careers update

## Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme



### Welcome to the Term 3 Careers section!

*Help your child to explore their future*



#### **TPAT 6th Form Assembly**

On Wednesday 11th February Mr Godley came in from the TPAT 6th form to speak to students about studying there. Students were given lots of information about pathways, extra-curricular activities and what life is like at the centre.



#### **New College Swindon Appren-T-Fest**

We took over 35 Year 11 students to Appren-T-Fest at the Steam Museum in Swindon. This was an invaluable experience for students to learn more about apprenticeships and speak to local and national employers about apprenticeship opportunities.

#### **PSHE Careers Lessons**

There has been a focus on careers and post-16 planning in our PSHE careers lessons this term. Students have been learning about all the opportunities that are available to them when they leave the Deanery and focusing on careers that they have an interest in. We have been using career pilot and this has been rolled out successfully in school. In term 3, Year 9 students have done careers in PSHE, to help them with their upcoming GCSE options.

#### **Guest Speaker** – Tessa Clarke

We welcomed Tessa Clarke to the Deanery to talk to all of the students about the world of business. She spoke to the students about her entrepreneurial journey and how she has set up her successful app "Olio" which is doing a fantastic job on combatting food waste and connecting people in the local community. Students were inspired and given some great advice about how to succeed and set up their own business one day!

#### **Education and Business Partnership** – 'Preparing for Work Day'

On Friday 9th January, Year 11's took part in a 'preparing for work' day led by the education and business partnership.

The students took part in four different workshops, which were:

- CV writing
- Interview preparation
- Financial awareness (cost of living)
- Guess my job event



The students had a very insightful day, preparing them for their future. They were supported by some inspirational practitioners and volunteers from the EBP, who gave them the tools and knowledge to navigate applying for a job or college course, preparing for an interview, understanding finances and budgeting as an adult, and to reflect on what important skills and characteristics they have as an individual.

The staff were so complimentary about our students and how polite, friendly and engaging they were in the sessions. It was a busy day, but hopefully one they will all benefit from and help them to feel more confident about the future.

***Well done to all the Year 11 students!***



### **Year 7 AI Workshops**

Last week we welcomed a scientist from the Rosalind Franklin Institute into school to lead workshops about AI and the world of science. They were interesting sessions, that looked into careers in science and how AI can assist scientists in doing important research.

### **Y10 STEM Workshops**

We recently had 1-hour workshops for all Y10 students on the world of STEM and this was led by the Rosalind Franklin Institute. We had some rich discussions and students engaged brilliantly with the topic, the careers available in STEM and how their learning in school can help them work in a STEM related career.

**Mr. Hinson** – *Careers lead*

## Safeguarding

### To all families,

Please be vigilant during the school holidays regarding the emerging trends on social media, specifically Tik Tok, where children are being drawn in and are putting themselves at serious risk of injury.



Several dangerous and concerning trends have recently emerged or resurfaced on Tik Tok as of early 2026, posing physical, emotional, and safety risks to users, particularly children and teenagers.

- **Needoh Microwaving/Freezing Challenge** – a dangerous trend prompting children to microwave gel-filled sensory toys to make them more pliable. The toys can explode, causing severe second-degree burns to the face and hands, with multiple cases reported in hospitals as of this month across the UK.
- **The Dusting or Chroming Challenge** – involves inhaling toxic fumes from aerosol cans or keyboard cleaners to get high. This has led to the tragic death of a young person since Christmas in the UK.

If you have any concerns and do want to speak with someone, please contact the school and ask to speak with a member of the Safeguarding team.

Thank you, and have a restful half term break.

*Miss Luckman*

**Assistant Headteacher – DSL**



**THE DEANERY CE ACADEMY  
PRESENTS**

# SISTER ACT

Music by  
**ALAN MENKEN**

Lyrics by  
**GLENN SLATER**

Book by  
**CHERI STEINKELLNER  
& BILL STEINKELLNER**

Additional  
Book Material  
**DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE**

Based on the Touchstone Pictures  
Motion Picture "Sister Act"  
written by Joseph Howard

**25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2026**

**Child £4 • Adult £7 • Family £20**



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTL [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)

**Executive Principal:** Mr J Young

**Vice Principals:** Ms L Connors and Mr D McDonald

**Tel:** 01793 236611

**Email:** [admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk)

## Current whole school attendance YTD - 91.8%

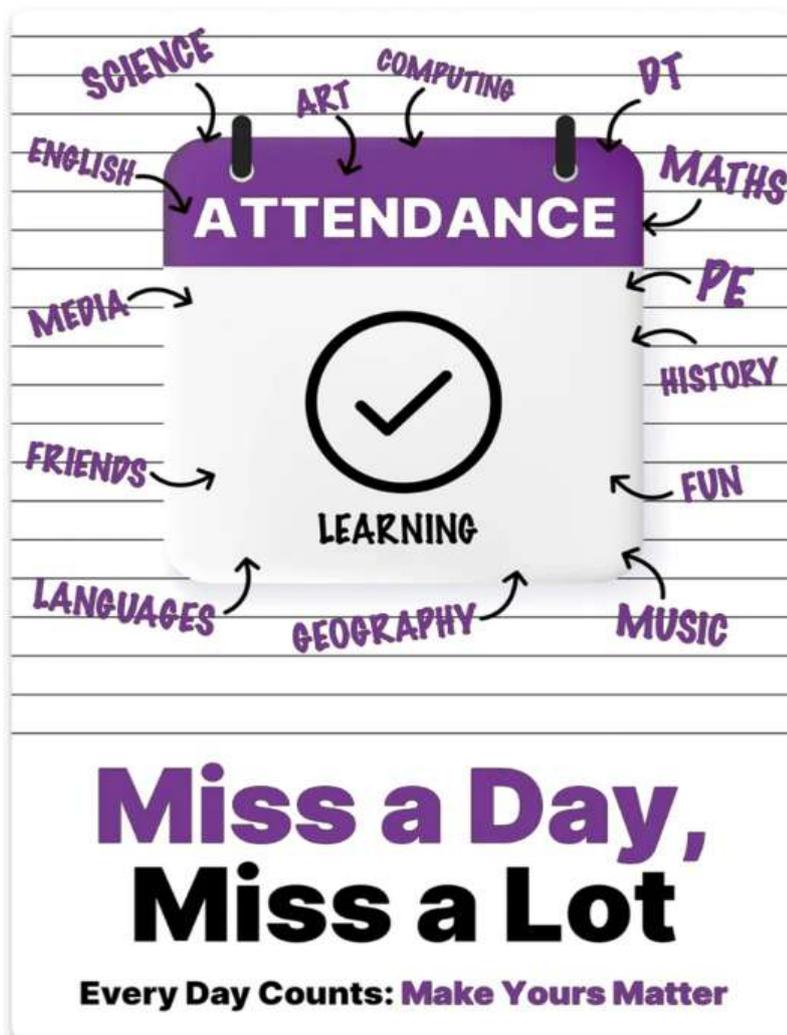
### The Importance of Regular Attendance School

Regular attendance plays a vital role in your child's academic progress, wellbeing, and future opportunities. Every school day counts, and even small amounts of missed learning can quickly add up, particularly as the curriculum becomes more demanding.

### Being in school every day helps students:

- Keep up with lessons and coursework across all subjects
- Build strong routines, resilience, and independence
- Develop friendships and social skills
- Feel confident and prepared for assessments and exams

***Students who attend school regularly are far more likely to achieve their full potential, both academically and personally.***



*Designed by year 9 student, you will see this around the school.*

### Reporting illness

If your child is unwell and unable to attend, it is essential that you inform the school as soon as possible. Why is it important to report illness?

- Ensures your child's absence is recorded correctly
- Allows the school to monitor attendance patterns and offer support if needed
- Helps us safeguard students and follow up where there are concerns

### Leave during term time

As a school, we do not authorise leave during term time. This is because time away from school:

- Disrupts learning and makes it difficult for students to catch up
- Can impact progress, confidence, and exam outcomes
- Breaks important routines that support attendance and engagement

Holidays and non-urgent appointments should be planned outside of school term dates. This approach is in line with national guidance and reflects our commitment to giving every student the best chance to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting good attendance. By working together, we can ensure that all students benefit fully from their time at school.

**Ms Woodfield** – Attendance officer

# 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/>

**13<sup>th</sup> February** – Term 3 ends (*normal school day*)

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** – INSET day (***school closed to students***)

**27<sup>th</sup> February** – Prom committee: Games night (6pm – 8.30pm)

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** – Year 11 Mocks round 2 begin

**5<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 8 parent subject consultation evening

**6<sup>th</sup> March** – Prom committee: talent show (6pm – 8.30pm)

**11<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 9 Imperial War Museum trip, London

**12<sup>th</sup> March** – UKMT Maths Challenge; KS4 Lyme Regis GCSE Geography fieldtrip

**13<sup>th</sup> March** – SEND drop in morning (9am – 11am)

**19<sup>th</sup> March** – Geography Bristol fieldtrip

**25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> March** – School production of Sister Act

**27<sup>th</sup> March** – End of term 4

**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/>