

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



Wisdom - Hope - Service - Resilience

Issue 22

March 2026

The Deanery Way

Dear Parents and carers,

As we approach the end of Term 4, I have once again been struck by the breadth of opportunity and purpose that we see at The Deanery each day. Visiting lessons this term has been a reminder of what makes The Deanery such a special place: a community where pupils grow not only in knowledge but in character, confidence and compassion.

There has been so much energy across the school. Sister Act rehearsals have filled the theatre with music, teamwork and laughter; our students have once again shown how courageous and bold they can be when stepping into the spotlight. The production was an absolute success and a memorable celebration of our school community. I commend and thank the students and staff who have made this happen.

Meanwhile, our Maths department has enjoyed a remarkable term—from KS3 students on residential at Osmington Bay applying mathematical thinking in adventurous ways, to hosting the UKMT Team Challenge with schools from across the region. The determination and maturity shown by our pupils has been truly inspiring.

In Humanities, our Year 9s visited the Imperial War Museum, engaging with the powerful stories of the Holocaust with great respect and thoughtfulness. And of course, World Book Day brought its usual magic: golden snitches, brilliant costumes and a sense of excitement about reading. It was a joy to see so many students rediscovering the power and pleasure of books.

As a Church of England academy, this term's Lent and Easter reflections have invited us to consider how we grow through challenges and how hope can emerge from difficulty. Our chaplaincy team has helped students explore these ideas in thoughtful, accessible ways, and I'm grateful for the calm and reflective space this brings to the heart of our school.

We also continue to focus on keeping our children safe—online, in the community, and within our school. The latest safeguarding review was very positive, and our student survey results show encouraging improvements in pupils feeling safe and supported. This remains at the centre of all we do.

Finally, our Year 11 students have also shown great focus and determination as they prepare for their upcoming exams next term. Their commitment to revision, attendance at intervention sessions and positive attitude towards their studies have been truly impressive. We wish them every success—they have worked hard and thoroughly deserve to do well.

As we head into the Easter break, I want to express my gratitude to our pupils for their energy and kindness, to our staff for their relentless commitment, and to our families for your ongoing support. The Deanery continues to flourish because of the partnership we share.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful Easter.

Best wishes,

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

Mr Young
Executive Principal

Chaplaincy

I've just come from a bike maintenance workshop where a small group of pupils practice fixing brakes, changing a tyre and adjusting the steering column. But what I saw them doing and what they learnt were two different things. They learnt to communicate, to take turns, to look at something carefully, to diagnose faults and come up with a remedy that worked. What a privilege to be in the room with those pupils and the member of staff leading them.

I'm fortunate to see lots of the different ways pupils are given opportunities and challenges at the school. As I speak the theatre is alive with Sister Act rehearsals and activity, another chance to shine.

At The Deanery in the approach to Easter I will invite students to observe and consider the re-enactment of Jesus washing the feet of his friends, and whilst they are doing that, they might be learning about the nature of God Christians worship, the God who stoops to wash and serve, The God who ministers while his own feet go unwashed. To explore this together is a privilege.

Rev. Owen Green

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



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"

This term, in our collective worship sessions, students have been exploring our school values through the stories and words of the Bible. We have reflected on key questions, such as:

- *What does it mean to live 'wisely'?*
- *How do we respond when things go wrong?*
- *Where do we find hope when life feels hard?*
- *How do our actions affect others?*
- *What does Easter mean for us today?*



"Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." ~ John 12:24

Jesus is trying to teach those listening that sometimes things go wrong or we experience struggles (like the seed falling and dying). But from that, good things can grow!

Easter isn't just about rising. It's about change. Easter follows struggle. New life comes after sacrifice.

Easter is about recognising and celebrating Jesus rising from the dead and conquering death and evil.

*Our final tutor worship session of this term left us with the following question: **How can our values help us to change, this Easter?***

Wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowing what needs to change in our lives• Making good choices, even when they're hard	Hope <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Believing that something better can grow• Trusting that difficult times don't last forever
Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Like a seed giving itself for others, we serve and support people• Small actions can grow into something bigger	Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growth is not easy—seeds push through darkness• We keep going, even when life feels tough

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-we-believe/lent-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)



Resilience

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

KS3 Osmington Bay - Maths field studies.

44 year 7 and year 8 students attended a two-night maths field studies residential in sunny Dorset this term to put their maths into adventurous activities. To mention a few, they put speed calculations into working out the fastest section of a zip-line and compared their speeds with their peers, used averages to work out the strongest student in shots on target for Archery and used Pythagoras Theorem to estimate the length of rope individually used to abseil down a 10m tower! All students represented The Deanery with such maturity, confidence and kindness, with our school receiving many compliments from PGL leaders during our time at their centre. Well done year 7 and year 8, the Mathematics' department look forward to seeing your applications of fractions, ratio, percentages, speed and Pythagoras in lessons in the upcoming terms!



A big thank you to our readers in our Easter service on the last day of term. It takes a huge amount of resilience and courage to stand in front of hundreds of your peers and read aloud. I was extremely proud of their commitment and confidence!

Mrs. Gallagher



Wisdom

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

What an incredible day at The Deanery Church of England Academy!

We were thrilled to host the **UKMT Team Maths Challenge**, welcoming bright young mathematicians from across the region – from Chippenham to High Wycombe, Gloucestershire to Salisbury.

🧠 ⚡ Students worked through a series of demanding and exciting rounds, including challenges like:

- **Group Problem Solving:**

"A triangle has sides of length 8 cm, 15 cm and 17 cm. What is the area?"

- **Cross number Round:**

"The 4-digit answer to $12 \times$ a two-digit prime reads the same forwards and backwards. What is the prime?"

- **Relay Round:**

"If Team A's answer is 24, use that to calculate the value of $3x + 6$ when x is Team A's result divided by 4."

The atmosphere was buzzing with teamwork, creative thinking, and real mathematical determination.

A huge congratulations to Winchester College, who won this Regional Final, challenge and now progress to the National Finals in Manchester later this school year. We wish them the very best as they represent the region at the highest level!

Thank you to all the schools who took part and to UKMT for bringing such an inspiring event to our academy.

#UKMT #TeamMathsChallenge #TheDeaneryAcademy #STEM #MathsInAction

Our teams consisted of: Reuben, Naisha, Ruth, Ravi, Ernesto, Sara, Sophie, Kacper and Mahath



Hope

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

Two Year 11 Students Qualify for Second Round of National UKMT Maths Challenge

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding mathematical success of two of our Year 11 students, Mai and Lourdes, who progressed to the second round of the national UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. Their achievement placed them among the top-performing students across the country, earning them invitations to sit the prestigious Pink Kangaroo round, which took place on 19th March 2026.

What Is the Pink Kangaroo?

The Pink Kangaroo is an invitation-only follow-on round for high scorers in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge. The questions often require students not only to know mathematical techniques but to apply them in unusual or non-obvious ways. Puzzles typically draw on number theory, algebraic reasoning, geometry, and logical deduction—often combining several elements in a single problem.

These sorts of problems reward curiosity, careful reasoning, and a willingness to explore patterns—qualities Mai and Lourdes regularly demonstrate in their mathematics lessons. Both students approached the challenge with enthusiasm and determination. Their teachers have praised their focus, problem-solving resilience, and readiness to tackle unfamiliar problems with confidence.

As a school community, we are incredibly proud of Mai and Lourdes. Their achievement reflects not only their own dedication but also the supportive culture of mathematical challenge we aim to nurture across the school.

We look forward to seeing how far their mathematical journeys will take them next!

As part of the conclusion to their study of the Holocaust, Year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum London to take part in the museum's Holocaust learning programme. The visit gave students the opportunity to engage directly with the galleries, encountering the stories, artefacts and testimonies of victims and survivors. After the visit, students were asked to reflect on something they had seen in the gallery that stayed with them:

MJ noted a small toy figurine of Hitler and was surprised to learn how the Nazis were seemingly inescapable and present in almost every part of people's lives. BK was struck by a photograph of a young boy being forced to write "Jew" on his father's shop while an SA officer stood over his shoulder and a crowd looked on. BK reflected on how upsetting it must have been for the boy to be made to do something to his own father's shop, likely a place his father had worked very hard to build.

Thank you to the students for approaching the visit with such care and thoughtfulness, it was a pleasure to share the experience with you.

Mr Woodrow & Miss Price



World Book Day 2026

There was a huge amount of fun celebrating World Book Day at The Deanery this year, with a whole week of book/reading themed activities to highlight the importance of reading.

We started the week by inviting students to reflect on the role of reading in their lives, how it could feed their personal goals and how they could "Go All In" in support of 'The National Year of Reading' initiative.

Pupils had the opportunity to watch video clips of staff and authors talking about the books that made them a reader or were particularly important to them, and Tutor Groups took part in a 'Book-to-film' debate.

World Book Day itself kicked off with the return of "Hunt the Golden Snitch", where 100 snitches with a sweet treat inside were hidden around the school for pupils to find. Pupils had the opportunity at break/lunch time to come and have their photos taken in our 'Narnia' and 'Magical Forest Library' photo booths, compete in their Tutor Groups in 'The Great Big Book Quiz', and take part in our 'Mystery Book Challenge', borrowing a book from the library without seeing its cover.

Staff got into the swing of things by bringing famous book characters to life with some phenomenal costumes, and Tutor Groups once again took part in the fiercely competitive 'Tutor Door Competition.' A massive congratulations to 11.1 who really impressed the judges with their 'Bible' door and took home the overall 1st place prize, and special mentions to 7.3 in 2nd place with their 'Gruffalo' door, and 10.5 in 3rd place with 'Marvel Comics.'

We hope that World Book Day has inspired your child to continue to explore the wonderful world, and lifelong benefits of, stories and reading.

Mrs Cook

LRC & Accelerated Reader
Supervisor





Deanery Careers update

Careers Education, Information & Guidance programme



Welcome to the Term 4 Careers section!

Help your child to explore their future

Year 10 College Experience Days

Students will have the opportunity to sign up to an experience day to New College and also Cirencester College in July. Information and a sign-up sheet will be circulated to tutors soon, so please encourage your child to register if they would like to attend.

Year 10 Financial Awareness Workshop

On Thursday 26th March all Year 10 students will be taking part in a 1-hour financial awareness workshop. This is being led by the education and business partnership and should really help our young people feel more confident about their finances.

Guest Speaker

As part of the speakers for schools' programme we are excited to welcome a cold war spy to the Deanery in April. They will be presenting to GCSE History students and we look forward to them sharing their stories and experiences with students to bring to life that historic time.

Assemblies

We will be welcoming in Wiltshire Police, The Army, and Oxford Brookes University in April to come and speak to our students about what opportunities and advice they can offer.

Deanery Careers Fair

On April 23rd we will host our careers fair with over 15 stalls. We have Colleges, 6th forms, local and national employers including the Army, RAF and the Navy. This will be for Years 9-11 and take place during lessons 1-3. If you or the organisation you work for are interested in taking part in the careers fair then please let me know at hinsonb@deanerycofeacademy.org.uk

Mr. Hinson

Careers lead



Polite Reminder Regarding Parking at School



We're seeing unsafe parking on and around the school site — including misuse of Blue Badge bays, parking in coned-off areas, motorbike spaces, and stopping in the 'Do Not Drop Off' zone on Peglar's Way. This blocks visibility and puts children at risk.

👉 Please park safely, respect all signs, and only use designated spaces. Let's keep our pupils safe. ❤️



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Student Spotlight

Oliver shines as official photographer



Over the February half term, Oliver, one of our talented Year 10 Photography students, was invited to be the official photographer at the Premier Pickleball League Tournament.

Good luck reviewing the 1,500 photos captured over the event – that's some serious dedication!

We are incredibly proud of everything you've achieved so far, Oliver, and we can't wait to see where your creativity takes you next.



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Current School Attendance YTD - 91.8%

Over 50% of our students achieve an excellent attendance rate of 96% or higher – a fantastic achievement that supports strong learning and progress.

Do you know your child's current attendance percentage? Regular attendance is vital for academic success, confidence, and wellbeing. Even small amounts of missed time can have a significant impact over the course of a school year.

If you are unsure about your child's attendance, or would like support in improving it, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help.

Do you know the impact of poor attendance? Missing just one day a fortnight can add up to several weeks of lost learning each year, making it harder for children to keep up with their peers.

Let's work together to give every child the best opportunity to succeed.

100%

Perfect - 0 days off school

99%

Excellent - 2 days off school

97%

Good - 5 days off school

95%

Slight Concern - 10 days off school

90%

Very Concerned - 20 days off school

As part of the Department for Education's expectations for mobile phone-free schools, we are reinforcing our commitment to keeping phones out of sight during the school day. Research shows that removing phones helps improve focus, behaviour, and overall wellbeing. Our school policy is not changing, but we are tightening how it is applied. This means that once you come through the school gates, your phone should not be seen or used at any point until you leave the gates at the end of the day. This includes after Period 5 if you are still on site. After Easter, any student who does not follow this expectation will receive a C3 in line with our behaviour policy, and their phone will be confiscated. Thank you for supporting a focused and positive learning environment.



Safeguarding

This term has been very busy at The Deanery with our annual Safeguarding Quality Assurance review, conducted by external Consultant Sarah Turner.

It was a very positive visit and we will ensure that all stakeholders receive the summary report and next steps to continue the effective safeguarding of the young people in our care.

Following the Student Survey, I wanted to share some of the headlines which are extremely encouraging and confirm how proud of our Deanery community we are.

Headlines:

- **Students feeling safe in school every day – up from 93% -95%.**
- **Any person outside of school who makes students feel unsafe: decrease from 26% -19%.**
- **25% students dislike the toilets which is a decrease, and this is predominantly a dislike of toilets, and not feeling unsafe.**
- **Online activity – the main apps used by students are Snapchat, WhatsApp, Tik Tok and Instagram.**
- **The concerning apps used are Discord (with 39 students in the school using this app) and Telegram (0 students). *As parents, please be vigilant around your children using any social media apps.***
- **What is most important to you?**
- **37% – to be good at school**
- **33% – to be kind to others – *this was really heart-warming to read.***

Recent concerns emerging from London and other big cities

A "Red v Blue" school wars trend has gone viral and is spreading across London, and it is causing fears that it could materialise into violence between children.

Social media posts on Tik Tok and Snapchat frame after-school meet-ups as confrontations between rival schools, rather than friendly gatherings, with children split into colour teams, most commonly, Red v Blue.

Some posts encourage bringing items including scissors, compasses, rulers, and metal combs, and in extreme cases, knives, or fireworks.

This has not currently spread to Swindon or the South West but please ensure that you are checking your children's social media and having conversations with them about the dangers and risks of these online trends.

Thank you and please all have a safe and restful Easter break.

Miss Luckman

Assistant Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Lead



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 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/>

- 27th March** – End of term 4
- 13th April** – Term 5 begins
- 15th/16th April** – Carers trip to care home
- 17th – 19th April** – Maths revision weekend
- 23rd April** – Careers fair
- 27th April** – Immunisations
- 4th May** – **School closed** (*Bank Holiday*)
- 20th May** – Performing Arts showcase
- 21st May** – Cinema reward
- 22nd May** – Term 5 ends
- 1st June** – **School closed** (*INSET*)
- 2nd June** – Term 6 begins

A reminder: For queries, please use the main Academy email address:

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/>