

April 2022

## Headlines

Dear Parent/Carer

We are almost at the end of another term which has whizzed by! Year 11s have been working hard preparing for their final examinations and we have continued to battle with the challenges of staff shortages and student absence due to Covid, not to mention our power cut which meant that we had no choice but to close the school. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

### Good News

We were delighted to welcome Music students from Merton College, Oxford who came in to perform for us and to work with our music department. Please see our website to hear the amazing recordings. They also attended DEAR sessions and read to our students as well as providing useful information about life at university and the courses on offer.

### Raising Aspirations

In March, six of our budding law students signed up to a webinar hosted by the Law Society president, discussing the topic of the teaching, or the lack of teaching about our laws at secondary school. Even a power cut and school closure didn't stop our students. They managed to log on at home and listen to this interesting debate with those at the top of the legal profession. This is another example of how our students are aspiring to greatness!

### Year 11

This year, due to the pandemic, examinations go on much later than usual. Students will be expected to come in every day **until they are notified** that they are no longer required to attend, at which point they will only be required to attend for lessons and revision sessions that they have not yet had their exam in. Details of all revision sessions will be provided after Easter. The official Leaving assembly will be held on **29<sup>th</sup> June** at 2pm in the school hall. Students will not be required in school on this day until 1:45pm when they will arrive via main reception and make their way straight to the main hall. Uniform is not required but students should dress smartly for a formal occasion.

The first invitations will be going out for the prom this week. The prom is an excellent event which recognises and celebrates the hard work and resilience of our students and is organized and supervised by our amazing staff in their own time. The prom is by invitation only. We would like every student to be able to attend, however, achieving success involves a partnership between students and staff. Our staff are working incredibly hard to support students through what has been a very challenging year for everyone, and therefore there is an expectation that students show their gratitude by doing their best and working hard. Where this is not the case, there will not be an automatic invite to the prom. Please note that attendance and rates of progress are **not** being taken into account - we are just looking for a positive attitude to learning in every subject which **everyone** is able to demonstrate if they choose to. Over the next few weeks there is an opportunity for everyone to show how much they value the support we are giving them and in return, they will receive an invitation.

### Key Stage 3 Exams

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will undertake exams during term 5, in the Sports Hall. One of the most important things for a student entering the exam season is preparation, and part of that preparation is being familiar with their surroundings and with the expectations – therefore the sooner students can begin to gain this experience the more confident they will be when they enter Year 11.

Please find the timetable below. Mr Morgans will be addressing the students via assembly, during our first week back to explain how the days will work.

	Lesson 1	Lesson 3	Lesson 5
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 9 - Maths	Year 7 - Maths	Year 8 - Maths
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 9 - Science	Year 8 - Science	Year 7 - Science
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 9 - English	Year 8 - English	Year 7 - English

### Behaviour to and from school

At Dorcan, our Ready to Learn behaviour policy means that your child can learn in a disruption free environment and, within school, where students are supervised, behaviour is good. However, unfortunately, to and from school the behaviour of **a very small number** of students falls below our expectations and standards. We have all worked incredibly hard to change the perception of our school in the local community and these behaviours damage all our good work. In school, students are taught character virtues, one of which is integrity; students are expected to demonstrate good character and the Dorcan values of Be Kind, Show Respect, Do your Best, even when no-one is watching and even when not wearing the uniform. However, when students are wearing our Dorcan uniform, they are representing the school and as such, any incidences of poor behaviour will be sanctioned by the school. We would appreciate your support in reinforcing these values.

### Catering

We would like to remind you that we provide a **free breakfast** for any student who wishes to have one every morning from 8:15am. In these times of financial hardship, there is no need for any of our students to go hungry in the mornings. Having a good breakfast will set them up for the day and support them to learn and achieve well.

### Uniform

Please make sure your child doesn't do anything over the holiday that contravenes our uniform policy and will mean that they are unable to attend lessons on their return.

### BBC Wiltshire Make a difference award

BBC Wiltshire are asking for nominations for their 'Make a difference' award – please see attached flyer. If you know of anyone who deserves special recognition remember to get your nomination in by 29<sup>th</sup> April.

### Staff Leavers and Starters

At the end of this term we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs Harris (Art teacher) who is leaving us to return to the Further Education sector and Mrs Matthews (Head of Music) who has been

promoted to Head of Performing Arts at The Deanery. We are delighted to welcome Miss Dorman in the Art department and Mr Baker in Music who will lead the department temporarily until our new Head of Music starts in September. We are also extremely sad to be saying goodbye to the legend that is Mrs Shepherd (Deputy Head) who has been at Dorcan for most of her school career and has been instrumental in our journey of improvement. Mrs Shepherd has made a life changing decision to leave teaching and pursue a new, exciting career and we wish her every success and happiness in her new role. We know that she will be brilliant. Mrs Shepherd will be missed by everyone at Dorcan but the difference she has made to the lives of so many students will never be forgotten. Mrs Morley will be taking on the role of Deputy Head (Student behaviour and welfare) in the interim and Mrs Lee, our Transition lead will be taking on the role of Director of Teaching and Learning until July, when we welcome a new addition to our senior team. We are also delighted to welcome a new addition to our Pastoral team, Mr Chalmers and our new DT Technician, Mr Junior who will be joining us after Easter.

### **Rewards**

Congratulations to Eagle House who are in the lead!! Currently the House totals are:

- Eagle: 59,276
- Osprey: 58,151
- Kingfisher: 54,656
- Falcon: 49,515

Don't forget to keep earning those house points.

We wish you all a happy Easter holiday and look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April which is B week.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Sherryl Bareham

