

12 December 2022

The Dorcan Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start by saying thank you for bearing with us over the past week where we have had significant staff absence; it is always a last resort to ask a year group to work from home and we do not make this decision lightly. We know it is inconvenient for parents, however, currently it is almost impossible trying to source supply staff and we are already covering for one another on a regular basis. We really do appreciate your support and hope that we can just make it through to Christmas now, as we have all our Christmas events taking place next week.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated a present for the Swindon toy appeal. Your generosity and compassion are amazing, particularly at a time when many people are struggling financially. The toys have been delivered to Gateway church and are sure to bring hope and happiness to many children and their parents this Christmas.

On December 8th we held our annual GCSE presentation evening where we presented certificates to our former Year 11 students. It was lovely to catch up with everyone again to celebrate their successes. We were also delighted to have a renowned neuroscientist and Head of Merton College, Oxford, Professor Irene Tracey CBE as our guest speaker. It was truly inspiring hearing about her journey and her words of advice to our leavers. We also enjoyed musical performances from Maeghan Patague in Year 7, the Dorcan Academy KS3 choir and Kasey De Boer.

We wish to congratulate two of our students, Fujino Alexander and Zaneer Zanzi who took part in the Senior UKMT Maths Challenge. This is a national competition that is sat remotely and is open to students in year 13 and below. The competition is designed to make students think and challenge them mathematically. Fujino achieved a Bronze certificate and Zaneer achieved a Gold. Zaneer's score qualified him for the next round, the Kangaroo, where he went on to achieve a certificate of Merit! Well done to both students on this incredible achievement.

We hope you enjoyed our last Dorcan newsletter – we intend to include all the events of this term in our next edition and keep the Headlines mostly for notices and information.

New feedback policy

Mrs Pearson has produced a video to describe the different ways your child receives feedback on their learning, which enables them to make improvements immediately. Please find a link to the video below.

https://youtu.be/AxiHoLZ_MNg

Our values in action – You will already be aware of our Dorcan values of Be Kind, Show Respect and Do your Best and our character virtues. We have produced a document that details specifically how we want our students to demonstrate these virtues which again, you can find by following [this link](#) to our website. We would really appreciate your support in endorsing these values at home.

End of term arrangements

The last day of this term is Friday 16th December, and we will be finishing at 12 noon to allow you to begin your Christmas celebrations and for us to say goodbye to colleagues who are leaving us. Students may, if they wish, bring a charitable donation of £1 and wear non-school uniform. It would be great if they could embrace the Christmas spirit by wearing a Christmas jumper. Although this is a non-school uniform day, please make sure your child is sensible in their choice of clothing and jewellery.

Timings for the last day are as follows:

08:30 – Tutor time

08:50 – Lesson 1

09:40 – Inter-House Quiz

11:10 – Break (FSM students will be provided with packed lunches)

11:40 – Back to tutor for final goodbyes

12:00 – Finish for Students

Staff leaving

Sadly, Mrs Watson, our Head of English is leaving us for a promotion near her home in Bristol. Due to the way teacher resignations work, it will not now be possible for us to fill this post before April at the earliest, more likely September. Therefore, our new Assistant Head, Mrs Jones who is an English specialist will take on this role in the interim and ensure Year 11 classes are not disrupted. Mr Allen, our fantastic cover supervisor who can turn his hand to anything and always gives 100% will be taking on some English.

House points totals are as follows:

	Eagle	Falcon	Kingfisher	Osprey
Total	31380	25486	33129	36345
Average per student:	152.3	148.2	160.8	171.4

Please see overleaf links from Swindon Borough Council and about the Revolution Performing Arts sessions.

We wish you a safe, relaxing and happy Christmas and a wonderful new Year and look forward to seeing everyone again on **Wednesday 4th January 2023**.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Bareham
Headteacher

Swindon Borough Council Warm and Welcome

Please see below information on council or community venues available to residents to visit to spend time, stay warm and feel safe.

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/warmandwelcome?fbclid=IwAROMqBwbYJ-xwm-PQrveJAwBilu6x_ToeQkXY8b-lk9lnH16eADG0ildiPU

Winter HAF Sessions - Revolution Performing Arts sessions

The sessions are free for people that are eligible for HAF funding via the Evoucher's system or if not eligible your child can still attend at the cost of £20 per session and £3 per meal. We also accept childcare vouchers. Children do not have to attend the school we are running the sessions at to attend to the workshops.

Our workshops are nurturing, empowering and great for building confidence. They are also great for siblings. We are Ofsted registered and all our leaders running the sessions are DBS checked, insured and paediatric trained. Book now before places are gone!

Parents/carers can enrol via our website www.revolutionpa.co.uk or by clicking this link: [Fun Workshop Enrolment 2022 | Revolution Performing Arts \(revolutionpa.co.uk\)](#)

We are the only Performing Arts group running HAF in the Swindon area and we would really appreciate your school promoting this for us as we would like to help as many parents and young people as we can.

