

10 February 2023

The Dorcan Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

The year is flying by and once again we find ourselves at the end of term. As a reminder, the Headlines is now going to include mainly information-based items with our newsletter containing news of all events that have occurred throughout the term. That said, Mrs Trigg was keen to let you know that the disco went really well – students had great fun and 97 students attended, which helped raise funds for the Duke of Edinburgh award.

We are also delighted to let you know that our vision of becoming an outstanding school of first choice at the heart of our community is coming into fruition. This year we have had 177 **first choice** applications for 170 spaces in Year 7, meaning that we are oversubscribed with students who want to come here as their first-choice school. As you know, in July 2022 we received a Good judgment by Ofsted and are now on our way to outstanding.

Rewards Success

Last week saw students taking part in the Rewards assembly for their year group where certificates were given out for achievement and progress in subjects, Attitude to Learning, demonstration of the Character virtues, a Growth Mindset and 100% attendance. Well done to all students who received a certificate and thank you for supporting your children to Be Kind, Show Respect and Do their Best.

Praise Table

Our KS3 Praise Table is gaining momentum with at least 10 students regularly turning up at lunchtime to showcase their excellent work. Please encourage your child to present the classwork and Home Learning they are proud of at the table, where they will receive House points and letters home.

Revision strategies and GCSE pod

We would like to say a huge 'Well done' to all of our year 10 and 11 students working hard on their revision for their upcoming exams. Since the launch of GCSE Pod at the start of the year, nearly 9000 Pods have been accessed by our students, a massive achievement by those who are completing their revision.

Special congratulations to our top year 11 GCSE 'Podders': Brandon Muchenje, Keira Jones and Kai Francis, and our top year 10 GCSE 'Podders': Sophie O'Nion, Charley Kibblewhite and Kate Moroz.

As we approach the year 10 prelim exams and the year 11 summer exams, students should be utilising the revision strategies they have been taught in school. These include the use of GCSE Pod, Cornell Note taking and flashcards (the Leitner method). In case you were unable to attend either of our revision evenings, below are the links to these strategies to provide you with more information about them.

Thank you for all your continued support with your child's revision.

Leitner Method – Flashcards

[How to study flashcards using the Leitner system - YouTube](#)

Cornell Note Taking

[Cornell Notes - Find out how they work - YouTube](#)

GCSE Pod

[Parent Resources - GCSEPod](#)

Read, Cover, Write, Check

<https://youtu.be/HgIEMLYSEqo>

Character focus: Be Kind: Courage

We have been focusing this term on our Value of Be Kind and the virtue of Courage. We would appreciate your support in actively teaching your child the following behaviours:

Students are to be kind. If they see or hear others being unkind, we would like them to act with **courage** and stand up for what is right by: a) **not** joining in, b) **not** retaliating on the victim's behalf, c) instead challenge the perpetrator to think about whether their words and actions are kind and respectful and d) report to a member of staff.

Meeting staff

If you wish to meet with a member of staff about an issue relating to your child, we would appreciate it if you could contact the school in advance to book a time rather than just turning up at school requesting to see someone. This will enable us to allow sufficient time to deal with your request and will mean that staff can plan their time effectively to maximise efficiency. Please also refer to the link book which explains which staff are best placed to deal with your request, whether that be the Form Tutor, the Curriculum Leader or a member of the pastoral staff. If you have met with the appropriate person and are not satisfied with the actions taken to resolve the issues, by all means contact a member of the senior team.

In addition, if you are coming into school for a meeting please ensure you report to Main Reception and sign in; do not enter through other areas without proper authorisation.

Toilets

We have experienced some issues around use of the toilets at break and lunchtimes, mainly due to the fact that we now have staggered lunchtimes due to the growing population of the school. This has reduced the number of toilets that can be used at lunchtime without disturbing lessons that are still going ahead. To alleviate this, at lunchtimes, students should use the dining room toilets as the first port of call, but where there is a queue, use the main hall toilets. At break times, students have designated toilets for their year groups: Years 7 and 8 will use the main hall, Years 9 and 10, the music room toilets and Year 11 the canteen toilets. Students should not be going to the toilet during lesson time as this impacts on learning (unless your child has a medical condition and has a white card) – there are opportunities to go before school, at break and lunchtimes and after school. Also, the toilets are not supervised outside of lessons and therefore this causes potential issues at the toilets. If there is an emergency situation, the teacher will use their discretion and allow the student to use the toilet with a permission slip.

Hoodies

We have noticed that students are wearing hoodies instead of outdoor coats as the weather has got colder. Whilst we appreciate that students may wish to wear hoodies on the way to school if they do not have an outdoor coat, they are not to be worn on the school site and will be confiscated if seen.

Car Park

Please could we ask users of the car park to be mindful of the safety of both pedestrians and other drivers by adhering to the one-way system and the speed limit and using the car park safely and with consideration to other users. There have been several near misses due to vehicles going in the wrong direction or not driving with care and attention. If there are parking spaces available, please use them instead of parking on the exit roads and hatched areas.

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; particularly false nails, piercings, un-natural hair colourings or extreme haircuts, tramlines or shaved or part shaved heads. Thank you.

Pre-loved Uniform

If you do have any uniform in reasonable condition that does not fit your child anymore, we would be very grateful to receive your donations, whether they be branded items such as blazers, ties and PE tops, or PE shorts, trousers and shirts, etc. that could be recycled as our stocks are running low. Donations can either be dropped off by students at Student Reception or at Main Reception. Many thanks.

House points totals (24 January) are as follows:

	Eagle	Falcon	Kingfisher	Osprey
Total	40682	34191	43710	48033
Average per student:	197.5	198.8	212.2	226.6

Please see attached flyer from the organisation Study Higher about their SPACE programme – Supporting Parents and Carers in Education 2023 - which gives useful advice and webinars on how to support your child to prepare for their examinations. Also, see below details of the Beechcroft library Homework club.

Swindon Borough Council Newsletter

SBC has started to produce a newsletter which includes information about help for households, particularly the cheaper internet tariffs. Please click on the link to the newsletter: [Local news, events and updates \(mailerlite.com\)](mailto:localnews@swindon.gov.uk)

Term finishes on **Friday 10 February** and is a normal school day and students return on **Monday 20 February 2023**. I hope you have a good break.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Bareham
Headteacher



Stratton St Margaret
Parish Council

BEEHCROFT LIBRARY HOMEWORK CLUB!



$$a = \frac{V_f - V_i}{+}$$

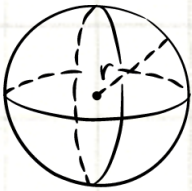


**EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM
6-7PM**



AT BEEHCROFT LIBRARY:

**118 BEEHCROFT ROAD
SN2 7QQ
01793 680030**



$$V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$$

**STARTING
WEDNESDAY 18TH
JANUARY 2023!**

