

Dame Elizabeth
CADBURY

Headteachers **BLOG**



Welcome to the second edition of the Head Teacher blog for parents – our new feature to improve your insight into work that is going on in school with greater regularity than our larger newsletter publications. These blogs will be brief and will celebrate the best of what is happening as well as provide useful reminders for parents; enabling you to be fully informed... knowledge is power!

Parental Digest

Your weekly parental digest – easy ways to support your child in their studies:

- **Reading** – regularly and widely. Please support your child by encouraging them to read, visit the library, read the news in papers or online. Reading is the gateway to everything, and pupils are expected to read every day
- **Planners** – check and ask for evidence. Your child's planner is the main way they stay organized with homework. Please check their planner regularly and do spot checks on their homework to ensure it is complete, and complete to a good standard. Speak to your child to ensure they are managing their workload and communicate any issues through their planner for their form tutor to read.
- **Personal Organisation** – whilst most teenagers are happy for parents to organise life around them, at DEC we instill personal organisation as a key life skill. Please encourage your child to prepare their bag and their uniform the night before so mornings are a stress-free event!
- **Breakfast** – Children can't concentrate or learn properly when they are hungry. Some pupils arrive to school without having eaten breakfast, which is the most important meal of the day. Please encourage them to eat breakfast at home, or to purchase breakfast when they get to school.
- **Watch the news and talk about it.** Engaging in current affairs and talking about them is a great way of increasing your child's wider knowledge and vocabulary. It is also great to model to them that adults don't know everything, and sometimes we have to look up things if we don't understand. Showing this process to your child is really useful for their own skills and their confidence to explore the unknown

Reminders About Online Safety

This week at school, a number of phone checks have been carried out with parents following concerns from a very small number of children about their friends' online activity. Whilst the online activity needed adjustment, there were some simple safeguarding principles that parents need to be aware of.

Of the children spoken to, the average number of Instagram followers was between 400 and 600, with the highest being almost 1000. Yes, you read correctly... 1000 people who had access to the images posted of someone's/ your child on social media.

That's a vast number of people who, every time your child posts a picture on Instagram, have that image and can do anything with it and distribute it to anyone.

***Who are your child's followers on Instagram?
Who are they following?***

If you don't know them and worse, if they don't know them: could they be a potential risk to your child's safety?

Please check your child's phone and their social media accounts regularly. It is not about not trusting your child; it's about not trusting the hundreds of people who have direct access to your child through social media.

Netball Trip to Malta

Last week, a group of 4 expert Netball players from the DEC Netball team departed for Malta for an international sporting trip organized with the other schools in our Academy Trust. The trip was an enormous success where, despite extremely stiff competition, the pupils held their own amongst national level players in Malta. More than their sporting achievements though, they experienced international sport, a foreign country, firsthand learning of other cultures and made life-long memories with their friends.

Extra-Curricular Timetable

This has now launched under the leadership of Dr L Hughes who has been appointed as the whole school coordinator for The Wider Curriculum. Please check the website regularly for updates on what is on offer before and after school each day.

Year 11 Mock Exam Preparation

Year 11 have now been furnished with a huge bundle of stationary to support them in their preparation for the upcoming mock examinations. From post-it notes, to mini whiteboards and flashcards... pupils have everything they need to prepare thoroughly.

The website is filled with tailored resources to help pupils prepare using the very best online resources.

The Year 11 Study Room will open after half term to enable pupils to stay and work at school should they wish to with further resources and staff on-hand to help. If your child is in Year 11, please ensure they have planned their revision for the mocks, and they are starting well ahead of time, so they live by the golden rules of:

"Revision – little and often"
"Hard work beats talent"

SEND Newsletter

As outlined in the last blog, the new dedicated SEND newsletter is almost ready and will be out for parents to enjoy by the end of this half term.

If you have any questions relating to SEND provision in school or your child's specific needs and support package, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the usual routes:

- Their Head of House
- Mr A. Rackham – Assistant Head Teacher for Inclusion (a.rackham@decschool.co.uk)
- Mrs R Field – Inclusion administrator (r.field@decschool.co.uk)
- Mr M Dunn – Head Teacher (enquiry@decschool.co.uk)



With best wishes

Mr Dunn