

Dame Elizabeth  
**CADBURY**

# Headteachers **BLOG**



## **Launch of Pupil Pledge**

We are extremely excited to announce the launch of DEC Pupil Pledge... a set of deliberate curriculum enhancements for all pupils, giving them greater knowledge, experiences and character development opportunities that are sequenced over Years 7 – 11. The Pupil Pledge is designed to be built up across all years that pupils are in school and in each year, there are age related milestones for all pupils to achieve. This will be through their normal lessons, combined with taking part in trips, extra curricula activities, our wider curriculum (such as CCF, Duke of Edinburgh, creative arts clubs). By the end of Year 11, our overall ambition is that every pupil has achieved the DEC Pupil Pledge and is prepared exceptionally well for their transition into adult life, able to achieve whatever they aspire to do.

## **New Birmingham City Council plans for SEND Pupils – Parental Consultation**

Support of SEND pupils is a joint endeavour between schools and the Local Authority. It often requires involvement of expertise, assessment and/or support from specialist professionals within the local authority. Sometimes it even involves authorisation from the local authority, such as Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) being given to a child. Currently, these decisions as well as the allocation of specialist support are very often made at local authority level over which we have very little influence as a school.

You may have read or seen the findings of the September 2018 report of Ofsted's joint local area SEND inspection in Birmingham. A link can be found here: <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50021347>.

Since this report, Birmingham City Council have begun a significant redevelopment of SEND provision for the City which involves investment in personnel and a new proposed way of working with schools. The plans, due to start in January 2020, look incredibly positive and should enhance the SEND offer in all schools very well. Mr Rackham will provide a more detailed overview of these plans in the next SEND newsletter – part of this will include Parental Consultation events in the local area, at which we aim to have as many DEC parents as possible so that our voices are heard... watch this space!

## **Remembrance**

Every year we symbolically mark those who died and the scale of human sacrifice in World War I. This year, the remembrance service was led by Mr G Norton, our RAF Cadet Force Leader. CCF pupils and staff stood proudly in front of the whole school as we gathered at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November to hold a minute's silence to remember. Other pupils who are members of groups and organisation outside of school also shared their remembrance and poppy appeal activities with us, of which we are extremely proud.

A short video and other photos can be found on our Twitter feed - @followdectc

We will remember them.

## Topic Day 2

Topic days are times when we immerse the whole school in wider learning opportunities that enhance their usual subject curriculum. In future, it will also be a time when pupils can achieve multiple Pupil Pledge milestones. We welcome many external visitors including professionals, employers, theatre groups, west midlands police, to name a few... enabling pupils to meet and learn from a wide range of people who are specialists in their field.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, we held our second Topic Day of the year. This time, workshops and lessons covered the following topics across Years 7 – 11:

- Planning ahead: Careers Guidance
- Mental Health Awareness: Body Image
- First Aid
- Personal Finance
- Relationships Education
- Staying Safe: Stop and Search
- Staying Safe: Criminal Exploitation

The day was a great success – we look forward to Topic Day 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> December.



With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MD' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr Dunn