



DEC

NEWSLETTER >>> DECEMBER 2018

Wishing You
**A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

From Everyone at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury



NEW YORK COUNTDOWN



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR DONATIONS TO
CHILDREN IN NEED



THE TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED IS
A FANTASTIC £1346.03



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www.decschool.co.uk



**WE'RE READY TO TAKE A BITE
OUT OF THE BIG APPLE**

In week beginning November 26th, all pupils received a short assembly to remind them of 'The DEC Way' so that everyone was absolutely clear on how our policies and systems consistently apply on a day to day basis. Included in these updates were:

1. Routines for starts of lessons
2. Routines for ends of lessons
3. Expectations relating to basic equipment
4. Clarification on 'late marks', rewards and sanctions
5. Clarification on systems relating to Progress Club and;
6. Clarification on scheduling after school commitments

Equipment check.

To enable thorough preparation for January 2019, we want to make you aware of the minimum equipment pupils are required to have. Senior leaders will be conducting gate-checks for equipment starting in January to ensure all pupils are fully equipped. We understand that it may take time to obtain some items which pupils may have lost or used up during the Autumn Term and as such we are providing several weeks' notice.

Uniform.

Further, we would like to remind all parents and pupils that impeccable standards of uniform are required at all times. Over the Christmas break, new shoes may be on your shopping list. Many retailers advertise trainers as school shoes in a bid to secure your custom. Please refer to the website for clarification on permitted footwear. If you are at all unsure, please do not hesitate to send a picture or screen shot to enquiry@decschool.co.uk where we will be able to advise on suitability before you buy.

We have noticed a small number of pupils who have school shirts with a collar size which does not fit; top buttons being almost impossible to fasten. When renewing uniform ready for the new term, please ensure that the collar size of your child's shirt is sufficient to enable them to close their top button securely and with some growing room left to see them through the term.

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

From everyone at DEC we wish you a peaceful christmas and happy new year.

Mr M Dunn
Head Teacher

On February 13th, 40 of our jet-setting pupils, wearing customised DEC hoodies, will be embarking on a trip of a lifetime to the city that never sleeps..... **NEW YORK, NEW YORK!**

During their stay in the Empire city pupils will get to visit all of the major attractions. These include excursions to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the opportunity to witness the breath-taking views of the New York City skyline from the top of the Empire State building at night. Pupils will also have a chance to show their respect to the victims of the 9/11 tragedy at the humbling 9/11 memorial and museum.

Whilst there, they will also have a taste of the true New York lifestyle by experiencing the buzz of Times Square, the thrill of ice skating in Central Park and enjoying an evening of culture, singing along to a classic Broadway musical. No visit to New York would, of course, be complete without a spot of retail therapy and a chance to sample the local culinary delights.

If this doesn't get your mouth watering perhaps the photos in the next edition of the DEC newsletter will!

Bon Voyage from the Maths Faculty

If you missed out on a place to New York 2019, look out for future exciting trips to be brought to you by the Maths faculty including an outdoor, adrenaline fuelled trip to Wales 2019 (places available to year 8 and 9) and due to popular demand China 2020 (bring on the Pandas).



Aiming Higher



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Twenty of our year 10 pupils have been selected to work with a mentor on the Aimhigher programme this year. Aimhigher West Midlands is a partnership of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), schools, academies and colleges which strive to ensure young people from less advantaged backgrounds have access to high quality, exciting and challenging experiences that enhance their careers and further education.

Through this type of mentoring pupils experience higher levels of motivation for their studies in year 11 and are encouraged to work towards a route which will allow them to gain access to higher education.

Please look at the link below for more information. www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk/about-us/

University of Birmingham Mentoring

We are delighted to announce that for the academic year 2018/2019 we have managed to secure 80 volunteer undergraduate mentors from the University of Birmingham for Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, German, French and English.

Our undergraduate mentors volunteer an hour of their time every week to tutor our year 11 pupils in a specific subject on a 1:2 basis. The level of expertise of our mentors is superb and year 11 have really engaged in the tutoring after school every Wednesday. In 2017/2018 the impact of the mentors was approximately one and a half grades of progress in Mathematics and Science, in a 5 month period. Thank you to our mentors and to our year 11 pupils on their successful collaboration and commitment.



HAPPY CHRISTMAS
REMINDER FROM WEST MIDLANDS POLICE



Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

With Christmas fast approaching, it is important that students are reminded what we, as a school community, expect of them in terms of behaviour during the festive break from school. Whilst we hope they will enjoy socialising with friends and family, we also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from danger, crime and anti-social behaviour. Parents/carers and students should already be aware that as part of our safeguarding arrangements, the school has a two-way information sharing agreement in place with West Midlands Police, and we are active members of the local Police & Schools Panel. This joint approach helps us to intervene early to prevent and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour involving our students; and provide support and up-to-date safety messages.

In partnership with the police, we would like to remind our students about the following:-

- **Anti-social behaviour:** Think about how your actions and behaviour affects others.
- **Remember the company you keep:** if your friend breaks the law, you may also be held responsible for that crime, even if you weren't the one directly responsible.
- **Personal Safety:**
 - o Be aware of your surroundings, take care of friends and family members and keep Christmas gifts and other valuables such as smartphones out of public view whenever possible, especially during your journey to and from school, when you return in the New Year. Register your valuables at www.immobilise.com to improve the chances of getting them back if they are lost or stolen.
 - o Don't drink alcohol, take illegal drugs or unknown substances; they can have a big impact on your health and safety, behaviour and your ability to do well at school and enjoy other interests and activities. They can also be addictive and have unpredictable side effects, including sudden death! Information is available at www.talktofrank.com
- **Weapons in public places:** carrying knives or other weapons will get you a criminal record which can have life-long effects on travel and job prospects. Those who carry knives are also much more likely to be injured by them.
- **Off-road bikes:** these can only be ridden on private land with the landowner's permission. Don't risk your life and future prospects by illegally riding these on the road.

Yours faithfully

Kenny Bell
Chief Superintendent
East Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

Danny Long
Chief Superintendent
West Neighbourhood Policing Unit
West Midlands Police

Raddlebarn Partnership



This term Sixth Form students have been supporting Raddlebarn Primary students. This partnership allows both sets of students to profit from this valuable experience. Our Health & Social Care students have been supporting a range of year groups at Raddlebarn with some TA support, these students already have an idea that they would like to move into a career which involves younger children, whether that be teaching or in another support role. Our students have been supporting in year groups from Reception through to Year 5, by supporting reading in lessons, helping students with the writing and giving guidance on any other primary school related work. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed this TA support and as a consequence they are extending their support through to the new year and taking up as part of their 6th Form Work Experience.

In addition to this TA support, some of our other Sixth Form students were asked by Raddlebarn to deliver some E-safety workshops with Year 4 & Year 6 students. Our students looked into the content they felt was important for these age ranges and differentiated the workshops accordingly. Our students have tackled issues such as safety with online gaming, the use of passwords and ensuring they know who they are talking to online, as well as being careful about what information they should or should not share online. Our students prepared, planned and delivered these successful workshops to help younger students understand the dangers of the Internet and technology.

As you will agree this has been a very successful and supportive partnership for both sets of schools and students. We look forward to supporting Raddlebarn Primary more in the future with our Sixth Form students really engaging and benefiting from this brilliant opportunity.



Homework



Students have worked really hard throughout the Autumn term on their homework, and have really found the new approach to self-quizzing beneficial when it comes to remembering everything at test time. We have been really impressed at school by the vast number of pupils going the extra mile, using the library before and after school, to ensure their homework is of the highest standard and completed on time, showing a really conscientious attitude. A huge well done from all staff at school. Your hard work is recognised, and will benefit you hugely.

Part of the journey for all secondary school children is to become self-regulated, independent learners; which is where homework comes in. The relationship between progress in school and homework is strong, research shows it actually adds 5 months progress each year. Please support your child in completing their homework on time, and to the best of their ability; they should be spending up to, but no more than 70 minutes per evening on homework. If you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us at school. The process of self-quizzing is in fact revision, and is intended to support pupils. You can see some excellent examples of revision mind-maps that pupils have completed as part of their homework, below.

Thank you to all parents and pupils for any feedback on Century Tech- we have had a few teething problems, but are finding the new homework platform really useful. We are working with Century to get the assignments presented to the students in date order, to further support organisation, so please bear with us whilst they work on this. Any further feedback is always useful in helping us to support our pupils.

In light of the hard work of all of our pupils, there will be no homework set over the Christmas break for Years 7-10, although there is an option of additional self-quizzing for pupils that wish to keep themselves busy over the holiday season. Have a wonderful Christmas, and a Happy New Year.



CENTURY
INTELLIGENT LEARNING™



Forty Year 11 pupils had the pleasure of visiting The University of Liverpool last month, taking part in a mini-lecture, tour of campus and a talk led by student ambassadors at the university on student life, the cost of living when moving away as well as the thousands of courses on offer to undergraduates. The tour of campus was really eye-opening for the students, seeing the thousands of books in the vast library, a typical day in the life of a student, from running their own radio shows, fundraising activities, the sports facilities on offer, and the many weird and wonderful societies that students can be a part of. The day was really invaluable, and has helped Year 11 students to set their sights on their future goals and ambitions, as they head towards their mock examinations. The students were a credit to our school, and a great day was had by all.

Prefect Team Autumn Term

As we end the 2018 academic year it is always good to reflect on the success of the prefect team at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury recognising the key roles and responsibilities within the prefect team's structure and the hard work of key individuals.

Being a prefect adds significant value to our students at Dame Elizabeth giving them a wider skill set which they can then utilise when they move onto the next phase of their education or career when being successful at interview, demonstrating their superiority comparatively to other candidates based on their skills and experiences.

The 2018/2019 academic year has seen the prefect team evolve with the introduction of: senior prefects (Year 10 + 11), executive prefects (Year 12 + 13) and the appointments of a new head boy & girl all being put through a rigorous and robust application process contributing to the formation of the prefect council who now oversee the leadership and management of the prefect team.

Executive Prefects

Ole Gray, Chelsea Venner, Suuad Hassan, Hassan Khan, Sophie Finnerty, Destiny Robinson
Amir Ghofourian, Andrew Long, Sophie Harrison, Libbie Fewtrell, Abul Kahir

Head Boy & Head Girl

V.Choudry & C. Macphail

Year 11 Senior Prefects

O.Buchanan (Durham), T.Hunt (Durham), P.Hawkins (Durham)
L.Bindless (York), D.Willahadara (York), M.Emery (Exeter)

Year 10 Senior Prefects

Y.Ahmed (Durham), N.Roberts (Durham), S.Singh (York), E.Perkins (York)
N.Pinkstone (Exeter), J.Foster (Exeter)

Congratulations to those appointed in these pivotal roles and are the backbone to ensuring the continual improvement of the standards and expectations of all of our students at Dame Elizabeth.

The specific roles and responsibilities of the executive prefects range from: line managing the senior prefect council, organising charity events, conducting standards learning walks during form time and supporting senior staff during lesson changeovers.

The specific roles and responsibilities of the senior prefects range from: break and lunch time duty quality assurance, support at parental events and lesson changeover duties.

Rewards

At the end of each full term the prefects who have successfully met all of the prefect criteria for that term are taken on a rewards trip. The autumn term saw 57 prefects successfully maintain their attendance above 97%, have impeccable behaviour and consistently attended their break and lunch time duties, and therefore have the opportunity to go to Pizza Express prior to breaking up for Christmas as a thank you from Dame Elizabeth Cadbury for their continued hard work and contribution this term.

Have a superb Christmas to all of the prefects at Dame Elizabeth and a big thank you from me for your hard work during the first term of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Best Regards,

Mr R Hanson
Head of House
Exeter & Prefect Lead





There is a real buzz around the library at Dame Elizabeth this half term, with over 1,600 visits from pupils since the start of term. Whether it's Mathswatch, Linguascope or even just a quiet read in a corner, the pupils of our school are flocking to the library in their droves.

At the library we have everything pupils need to increase their love of learning; with over 20 computers and thousands of books, not forgetting a member of staff always on hand to help with any homework issues.

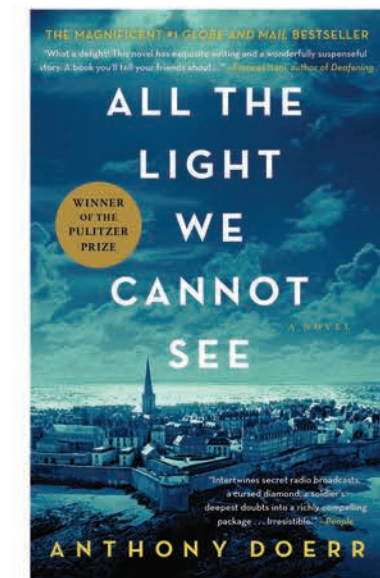
The library is open every morning from 8.10-8.40am and after school every day from 3.10- 3.45pm So if you haven't visited us yet, we look forward to seeing you in the very near future. A big well done to all those pupils who have visited and used the resources the library has to offer so far!

Reading for pleasure has been something we have aimed to embed across all years at Dame Elizabeth. With that in mind, the first week of December saw the first Book Swap of the academic year; pupils were able to bring a book from home they no longer read and take a new one home to read over Christmas. For those wishing to challenge themselves this break, here is a list of new and old titles to really get your teeth into;



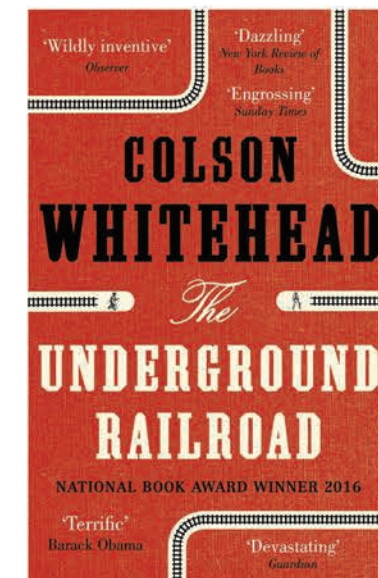
The Lovely Bones

A young girl disappears on her way home and the story follows her parents and the police as they desperately try to find her.



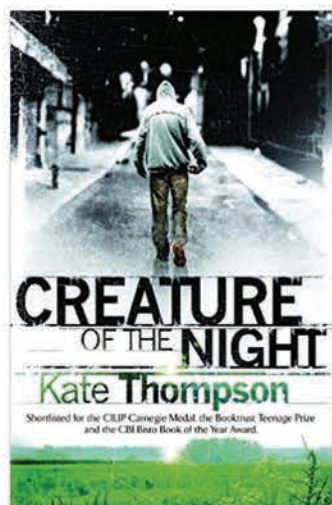
All the Light We Cannot See

A young girl becomes blind at the age of six and her father works to support her (based on true events).



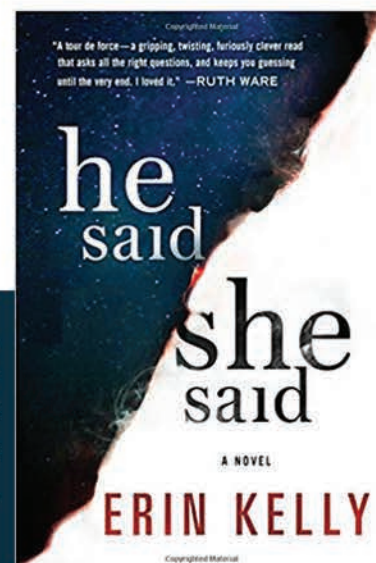
The Underground Railroad

Follows the journey of Cora, a slave working on a plantation. She has to overcome lots of obstacles along the way.

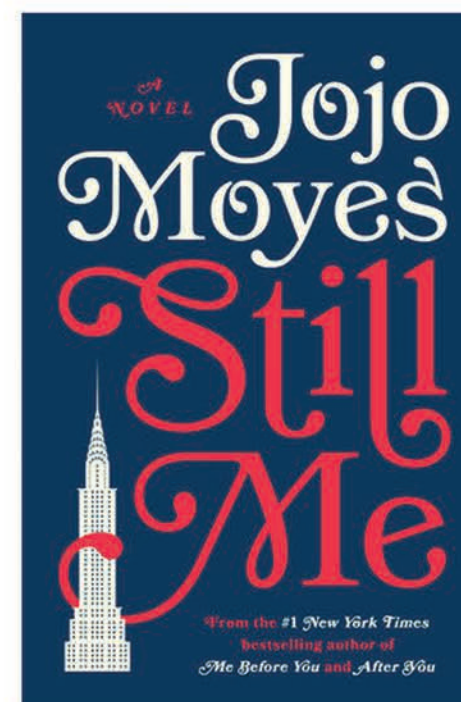


Creature of the Night

A fantasy novel about a single parent family who move house and discover that someone was murdered in the house.



He Said, She Said
voted the best
suspense novel of
the year

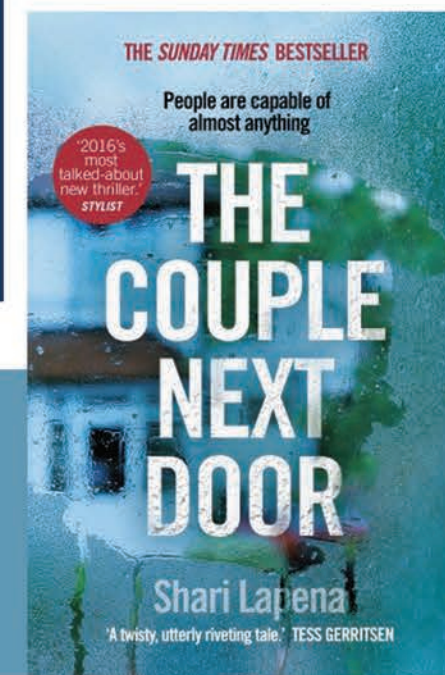


Still Me

A romance following on from 'Me Before You' – the protagonist is now travelling the world.

The Couple Next Door

A thriller about a baby who is taken from a family.



Understanding Progress Reports

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER'S PROGRESS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S HEAD OF HOUSE

You will receive your child's progress report for the Autumn term. In this article you will find information regarding the report format. Two short videos explaining the report structure as well as pupil targets can also be found on our school website under the 'publications' tab and then 'DEC Assessment'.

An example of a Year 7, 8 and 9 Report

Subject	Group	End of KS4 Target	July 2018	Attitude to Learning	Behaviour	Homework
English	8PEN	3-	Above Expected Progress	Good	Good	Good
Mathematics	8PMA	4-	Expected Progress	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good
Science	8PSC	3+	Below Expected Progress	Good	Good	Good
Physical Education	8PE6	4+	Cause for Concern	Good	Good	Good
Design & Technology	8DT5	5+	Above Expected Progress	Good	Good	Good
Computing	8CS2	3-	Above Expected Progress	Good	Good	Good
Geography	8PGG	3+	Above Expected Progress	Good	Good	Good

End of KS4 Target

This is the minimum expected grade your child should achieve at the end of year 11. The target grade is based on FFT 20 further information about FFT can be found at:
<https://fftaspire.org/help/faqs>

Pupil Statements

Created to allow you as a parent to see if your child is making expected progress based on their teacher's professional judgement.

Attitudes to Learning

Your child's work ethic and attitude in lesson.

The following definitions are below to support you with understanding the pupil statements at year 7, 8 and 9:

Above Expected Progress: Your child is working above the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11.

Expected Progress: Your child is working at the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently on track to achieve their target grade at the end of year 11.

Below Expected Progress: Your child is working below the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently not on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11.

Cause for Concern: Your Child is working considerably below the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently not on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11. Additional support or intervention will be required to ensure their rate of progress improves.

Cause for Concern: Your Child is working considerably below the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently not on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11. Additional support or intervention will be required to ensure their rate of progress improves.

An example of a year 10 and 11 Report

Subject	Teaching Group	End of KS4 Target	Grade Dec 2018	Grade Feb 2019	On Track	Attitude to Learning	Behaviour	Homework
English Language	11PEN	5	3	3+	To achieve	Good	Outstanding	Good
Mathematics	11IMA	5-	1-	2+	To exceed	Good	Satisfactory	Good
Science	11PSC	5-	U+	4	To achieve	Outstanding	Outstanding	Good
History	11HI3-EB	5+	4	5	Not on Track	Good	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Resistant Materials	11RM-1	C+	U1	D3	To exceed	Unsatisfactory	Good	Good
Music	11MU-2	5+	2	2	Cause for concern	Good	Good	Good
Art	11AR-3	5-	3-	3	To achieve	Good	Good	Good
Physical Education	11PE6					Outstanding	Outstanding	

Grade

Your child's working at grade based on the assessment at that give time.

On Track

Created to allow you as a parent to see if your child is on track to make expected progress.

Attitudes to Learning

Your child's work ethic and attitude in lessons.

The following definitions are below to support you with understanding the pupil statements at year 10 and 11:

To Exceed: Your child is working above the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11.

To Achieve: Your child is working at the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently on track to achieve their target grade at the end of year 11.

Not on Track: Your child is working below the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently not on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11.

Cause for Concern: Your Child is working considerably below the rate of progress expected at this stage and they are therefore currently not on track to exceed their target grade at the end of year 11. Additional support or intervention will be required to ensure their rate of progress improves.

A reminder that reports are sent out three times per year: at the end of the Autumn term, at the end of the Spring term, and at the end of the Summer term. The Summer term report will be assessment based on your child's end of year examination.

Best Maths Results Ever!

Individual Pupil Strategies

Congratulations to the 2017-18 year 11 cohort who just received the best P8 (+0.4) in the history of the school.

Curriculum Strategies

- The entire GCSE content is taught by the end of year 10. This had allowed each individual Maths teacher to create a curriculum, in year 11, one best suited to their own individual pupils and their target grades.
- Weekly Walking Talking mocks: this practice has proved to be very successful with pupils as it builds up confidence and reduces anxiety.

Pupils observe a Maths teacher answer an entire exam paper. The teacher talks through the thinking process behind each answer and explains the marking criteria. Afterwards, the pupils are given a similar exam paper and they have to demonstrate that they can now answer those exam questions. This helps the pupils tremendously with familiarisation with exam style questions, how to answer them and how marks are allocated.

Question	Marks available	Marks achieved	Percentage	Topic	Mathswatch clips
1	3	3	100%	Solving equations	135
2	3	3	100%	Percentage profit	88/89
3	3	2	67%	Circumference of circles / Averages	118
4	3	3	100%	Probability	14/59/125
5	2	1	50%	Rotations/Translation	49/50
6	4	4	100%	Powers & index laws	131
7	5	5	100%	Trigonometry	168
8	3	3	100%	Use of calculator/Rounding	72/32/90
9	3	0	0%	Proportional Reasoning	42
10	3	3	100%	Distance/time graphs	143
11	3	1	33%	Pie charts / ratio	128
12	3	3	100%	Interior/Exterior angles of polygons	123
13	5	3	60%	Repeated percentage change	164
14	3	2	67%	Inequalities & regions	198
15	3	2	67%	Combinations/Product rule for counting	69
16	2	0	0%	Solving quadratics	157/191/209
17	5	0	0%	Histograms	205
18	1	0	0%	Iteration	180
19	4	0	0%	Coordinate Geometry / Proof	97/133/159/208
20	5	1	20%	Sectors / Circle theorems	167/183
21	4	0	0%	Probability	204
22	5	0	0%	Functions	214/215
23	5	0	0%	Sequences & surds	163
Total	80	39	49%		

- Question level Analysis to help focus on individual needs and targets to help each pupil move forward.

Medals
Revise
Mission

- Provision of revision materials targeted to each individual pupil. The RAG (Red Amber Green) allows pupils to have a focused revision on each of the three GCSE papers. This reduces the amount of revision each pupil has to complete as it concentrates on improving the areas needing most work.

Reflection and next steps

- After seeing the growth in confidence and resulting in the best results ever, some of these strategies can be implemented a bit earlier.
- This year, we are commencing the cycle in year 10, where pupils will sit mock exams in February so that question level analysis can be implemented.

Mrs R. Crabtree
Maths Lead Practitioner





In Science lessons we aim to find novel ways to engage with both the curriculum and pupils. Around Christmas time schools and scientists across the globe make chemistry themed Christmas trees or 'Chemistrees'.

One example made by Mr. Barron de Burgh of a Chemistree can be seen right. This is a displacement reaction where crystals of silver form on a sheet of copper in the shape of a tree. This has been featured far and wide by the Royal Society of Chemistry and Chem13News in Canada.

Please see:
<https://uwaterloo.ca/chem13news/>



Another chemistree made in a Y11 lesson on electrolysis left. This is made by electroplating copper with zinc. Use the hashtag #chemistree to see others.

Children want adults to show each other more respect, with four out of 10 (41%) seeing grown-ups bullying each other in the past six months, a survey says.

Research among 1,001 children aged 11 to 16 by the Anti-Bullying Alliance suggests worrying numbers of children see adults setting a bad example.

Children in that age group highlighted adults who behaved poorly to each other face-to-face, online or in the media.

Some 97% said they would like to see more respect shown between grown-ups.

Show respect'

Martha Evans, director of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, said: "Children look to parents and other grown-ups for a blueprint of acceptable behaviour.

"If a considerable number of children say they see adults bullying and being disrespectful to each other, we have to ask whether grown-ups could do more to act as role models to children. "Being bullied can turn a child's life upside down; we should always check our own behaviour, especially around children, to make sure it sends a positive message of respect."

The research also suggests a third of children had experienced being bullied in the last six months.

But nearly all children - some 98% - said that showing respect to each other is important, and acknowledged that it was possible to be respectful even if you disagree.

The research was carried out with 1,001 children in England aged 11 to 16, in October.

Anti Bullying Alliance



It has been a busy term for the anti-bullying team. They have worked hard on establishing their roles in school and there have been some new recruits to the anti-bullying team.

Well done on the following pupils for their successful application process. We welcome the following to the anti-bullying team.

M. Griffiths 8DM1, M. Faber 8YK2, L. Hanna 8EX2, M. Byrne 8DM1, M. Swaby 7YK1, K. Denham 7EX2, D. Menzies 7EX2, K. Hart 7DM2, G. Williams 7YK2, S. Hassan 7YK2, M. Hill 7YK2, A. Harper 7YK2, N. Austin 7EX2 & T. Mae Sheppard 7EX1

We look to increase the number of anti-bullying ambassadors further in the New Year, and have already received over 30 new applications. Pupils who wish to sign up to become an ABA can do so through a letter or email to Miss Faulkner stating why they want to become an anti-bullying ambassador as well as what qualities they will bring to the team.

We continue to work hard at preventing bullying in school to ensure that it is a safe place for all to attend. If we know about incidences they continue to be dealt with, within 24 hours.

We thank you for your continued support.

If you do need to report anything you can do by one of the following ways.

1. Email – c.faulkner@decscool.co.uk
2. Speak to an anti-bullying ambassador.
3. Fill in a referral from and post in the red letter box.
4. Use the confide button on your desk tops.
5. Use the DEC advice page.

Signature Wall

Our lead ABA William has put forward a plan to Mr Dunn get our own antibullying signature wall. Once up and running every pupil in the school will sign the wall as a pledge against bullying and their commitment towards this.



**ANTI-BULLYING
AMBASSADORS
WANTED!**

ABA OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to J. Sullivan 8DM2. For his commitment to his duties before and after school and his work produced after ABA meetings. He has done a phenomenal job at raising the teams profile in school. Well done Joe.

Anti Bullying Alliance

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

New projects this academic year

- Anti-bullying silhouette dance
- Odd sock day
- Signature wall
- My true selfie
- Form time Pledge
- New website and confide system
- ABA's have gone around forms to highlight incidences, as well as inform pupils with how they have been dealt with. As a result pupils have felt more confident with reporting issues and are more aware of what is and isn't acceptable behaviour.
- Sixth Form lead ABA application forms have been given out, so that the 6th form can have an integral role alongside the ABA team.



Odd sock day was a success. Lots of pupils came to school wearing odd socks to promote diversity and people uniqueness. The pupils understood the reasons behind this and felt it was a good way of highlighting people's different identities and that they shouldn't be worried about being individuals.



WE ARE A
TELLING
SCHOOL

If somebody upsets or hurts you or one of your friends, or somebody is in any danger...

YOU MUST TELL SOMEONE.

Speak to your **HEAD OF HOUSE** or a member of the **LEADERSHIP TEAM.**



Winning at Interview: Preparation for Success

Our fabulous careers provision at Dame Elizabeth has been in full-swing this term with every pupil in the school making huge strides towards planning a future for success. Every year group have had the opportunity to self-assess their current skill set to highlight which profession they may be interested in or best-suited to. Organisation has been essential and every pupil has taken ownership of their pathway by creating their very own careers folder. Throughout the exciting journey from Year 7 to Year 13, pupils will now be able to document, review and collate every decision they make before they leap into the world of work – extensive preparation that gives our pupils confidence and burning ambition to thrive in their chosen profession.

In particular, Years 9 & 10 have been fortunate enough to go through the complete interview process. Pupils received expert guidance from current working professionals and CV writing leaders who delivered outstanding sessions on how to write a winning CV. They were given the opportunity to create, write and develop their very own superb CV that is now ready to send to potential work experience employers or to submit for future job vacancies. The tips and guidance that pupils received during these sessions was really appreciated by pupils who now all have an incredibly important document that is written to a very high standard.

Following this, pupils were guided through the next stages of securing their desired career – the interview! Preparation lessons were held to provide our pupils with the top-tips for a smooth interview and the pit-falls to avoid. During the sessions, pupils began to reflect on their own experiences and were able to unleash and develop their most effective style for communication. Every aspect was explored including body language, clarity of speech and very importantly the first 7 seconds. This preparation was not in vain – Lord Sugar's boardroom (sort of) awaited the pupils later in the day.

The climax of this incredible careers day was to experience a full interview with a current working professional in a real interview environment. We were lucky to secure the expertise of brilliant interviewers ranging from police officers to current business executives who were briefed and fully prepared to put our pupils through a mock interview situation. The feedback that pupils received from professionals who are currently industry experts was invaluable. Despite seeing some apprehensive faces as they sat in the waiting room, all pupils left their interview feeling more confident and able to approach their next interview with self-assurance and enthusiasm. With the pressures involved in securing those dream job roles, the opportunity to practise the entire process from start to finish will give Dame Elizabeth Cadbury pupils that cutting edge in the competitive career environment.

Winning at Interview: Preparation for Success

To reward pupils for their stunning contributions and efforts during the day, we finished with a stirring celebration assembly, which recognised a selection of outstanding performers. These included:

Most Prepared for Interview: S. Hassan & T. Bvundara

Most Professionally Dressed: J. Rudd & A. Ahmed

Best First 7 Seconds: J. Kenny & B. Lynch O'Driscoll

Most Employable: A. Faik, G. Martins & B. Njohmson

Most Impressive Overall Interviewees: J. Foster, E. Sibbald-Perkins & J. Kelly



Football Half Term Review

It has been a brilliant first half of the season for our football teams this year with some outstanding performances – a reward for the dedication to training that many of our top players demonstrate. In their debut season, the Year 7 team have shown strong team spirit to record a series of stunning victories including a 5-3 win away against Kings Heath and a 5-2 cup win against Archbishop Isley.

The boys also made it through to the 3rd round of the Birmingham cup losing 2-0 to Solihull school. The effort, commitment and professionalism the boys show is a huge compliment to the school. Their team work has been superb in each every game, playing always in a high respectful manner with superb sportsmanship to all opposition. A huge thank you also goes to our sixth form sports academy coach Jamie McGrath, who has worked with the boys weekly since September and has been taking on the coaching opportunity provided with both arms.

In comparison, the Year 8 football squad has struggled to replicate the successes of last season with training commitment a big focus for the squad during the remainder of the season. The first fixture of the year saw us battling hard against George Dixon Academy in a first round cup tie loss followed by some challenging fixtures in the league. However, often required to adapt to late squad changes the Year 8s who represented our school deserve huge praise for their commitment and endeavour in both games.

Team training has now finished during the off-season but will pick up again in the New Year in preparation for the remaining league fixtures.

OUTSTANDING FOOTBALLERS IN AUTUMN TERM

P.Harris (Year 7), L.Carter (Year 8)



Basketball Time Out

Our pupils have been attempting to slam-dunk their way to success this half-term with the excitement building as the season progresses for many of our teams. Each year group have been representing Dame Elizabeth Cadbury at several school tournaments across the region.

In Year 7, the boys have taken part in 4 games so far this season, which were held so kindly by Bishop Challoner. Showing huge commitment and effort, the boys narrowly lost 3 and won 1 game that evening. The games have provided the team with an excellent opportunity to meet students in other schools and they have all conducted themselves superbly and professionally in all games at all venues. Further league games are due in the new year.

On Thursday 29th November the Year 8 basketball squad travelled to Bartley Green to compete in a brilliant league tournament. The whole squad applied themselves terrifically meaning that on the night we played 4 and won 3 (Colmers, George Dixon & Bartley Green) losing to Shenley in a closely contested game. This is an excellent start to our season and will give us a good platform to build on for the remaining games. Equally, the Year 9 team have made a strong start with a win against St Thomas Aquinas and narrowly losing to Bartley Green 12-18. All teams have been bolstered by a strong determination for success during Thursday training sessions with Mr Hanson – we have very hopes for the season ahead!

OUTSTANDING BASKETBALLERS IN AUTUMN TERM:

E.Haywood (Year 8), G.Jenkins (Year 9)



Netball News



Netball has really taken off this year at Dame Elizabeth with over 30 new members. It is a great way to keep fit, socialise and enhance knowledge learnt in Core PE. We practice drills and fitness which have researched at home to improve their coaching skills. We have had various netball matches that is giving the team every confidence to improve and better themselves in each game we play. We are excited to be competing in more matches in the coming months and keep building our teams.

Our Year 7 and 8 teams have also taken part in a Matrix Netball Trial, which if they are selected will have the opportunity to go to Belgium. This is a fantastic opportunity for these students as this gives them the chance to play with other schools and enhance their netball ability further. We are always looking to expand our Netball Club and every new member is welcome!

OUTSTANDING NETBALLERS IN AUTUMN TERM

S.Perry (Year 8), L.Phillips (Year 11)



Dancing to Success



After school is dance club has been thriving with students with all ranges of ages and ability taking part. We offer various opportunities: for example, the dancers have showcased their ability in the 2018 Christmas show which they have been worked very hard for! We do fun warm ups, technique classes and different styles of Dance to give you the best experience of Dance. The students are also in the process of preparing to send an audition piece off to the Great Big Dance Off allowing them to compete against other schools.

We have also entered into the Alton Towers competition! Year 9 and 10 BTEC Dance Students have taken part in dance workshops from ex-professional dancers to deepen their understanding of dance and performing arts. The Dance Leadership Program is underway to develop our future dance professionals and to inspire local Primary Schools to enjoy dance and get them involved in our show. This provides pupils with the opportunity to learn how to coach and teach dance fulfilling the role of an ambassador for the Performing Arts Department. Pupils are now practicing routines ready for our end of show at the MAC theatre!



OUTSTANDING DANCERS IN AUTUMN TERM

T.Stephens (Year 9) M.Emery (Year 11)

Sports Leadership Academy



The start to the new school year saw a flood of applications for a new cohort of Sports Leaders. We had some outstanding applications with all of the applicants demonstrating their passion and commitment for promoting sport here at Dame Elizabeth which gave us as a PE department a slight headache in selecting the final 16.

Well done to the following pupils:

M. Faber (8YK2), E. Haywood (8YK1), A. Webb (8DM2), E. Evans-Jones (8DM1), T. Kelly (8EX1)
M. Delfiyah (8YK1), H. Allahham (8YK1), H. Savage (9DM2), I. Orton (9DM1), R. Newbold (9DM1)
J. Lee (9EX2), P. Moyosola (9DM2), H. Alsagheer (9YK1), C. Addis (10DM2), H. Haslam (10DM2)
& S. Singh (10YK1)

Their first task as a cohort was to organise, promote and run an inter house football tournament for the whole school. The leaders divided themselves into different roles and were all tasked with promoting the tournament around school. Pupils went around forms and the playground generating a real 'buzz' about the tournament ensuring that the attendance at the tournament was excellent. Pupils were rewarded 5 attendance points each for their house and the winning team would gain another 25 points individually, so a lot was to play for!

The tournament itself ran smoothly and efficiently with pupils from years 7-11 working together superbly in their teams and the older pupils in years 10 & 11 demonstrating their respect and leadership skills to the younger pupils in years 7 & 8. Every person participating in the tournament gave 100% effort and the teamwork in the teams was excellent to see.



Sports Leadership Academy



Some highlights of the tournament included H. Miles (11DM2) with a chipped effort to win goal of the tournament and H. Turrel (8EX1) with a fast reaction save winning save of the tournament.

The tournament ran in a league format and the winners on the day consisted of two teams both level on points and goal difference. The pupils on the winning teams and winning 25 points each for their house were: J. Riaz (9EX1), J. McCarthy (9EX1), C. Chapman-Ward (10EX1), O. Davies (7YK2), S. Singh (10YK1), H. Miles (11DM2), E. Haywood (8YK1), T. Wilkinson (11EX2), P. Harris (7DM1) & Z. Khan (9YK2)

The representation from each house was calculated with Exeter coming in first place:

3rd Place - Durham with 70 points.

2nd Place - York with 100 points.

1st Place - Exeter with 135 points

All of the pupils involved in participating were exemplary in their efforts and a special mention must go to the sports leaders who organised, promoted and ran such an inclusive tournament. There will be more tournaments as we progress through the year so keep your eyes peeled to see what sport we will be doing next!



DEC Physical Education & Performing Arts Faculty CLUBS – SPRING 1 2019



CLUB	YEAR	TIME	VENUE	STAFF
MONDAY				
Basketball	Years 7,8	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Field	Mr James/ Mr Joss
Dance	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10pm	Dance Studio	Miss Clamp
GCSE ONLY Group	Years 9,10,11	3.10 – 4.10pm	Sports Hall	ROTATION (KSH/RHN/JSH)
TUESDAY				
AM Football	Years 7,8	8:00am – 8:30am	Sports Hall	6 th Form Coaching Academy [GJS]
WEDNESDAY				
Badminton	ALL YEARS (Challenge Staff)	3.10 – 4.00 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Scarth
Badminton ELITE SQUAD	INVITE ONLY	4.00 – 4.30 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Scarth
Boys' Football	Year 7,8,9	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Field	Mr Smith
Girls' Football	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10pm	Yard	Miss Faulkner
THURSDAY				
AM Dance	ALL YEARS	8:00am-8:30am	Dance Studio	Miss Clamp
Basketball	Years 10,11	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Hanson
Netball	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Courts	Miss Faulkner/ Miss Clamp
FRIDAY				
AM Football	Years 9,10,11	8:00am-8:30am	Sports Hall	6 th Form Coaching Academy [JSH]
Indoor Cricket	ALL YEARS	3.10 – 4.10 pm	Sports Hall	Mr Joss
DofE	INVITE ONLY	3.10-4.10pm	Rm.33	Mr James

Durham House



As we approach the magical day of Christmas it is the perfect time to reflect on the term we have had as Durham house. The pupils have been fantastic, excelling in their achievements and rising to the challenges set back in September. As I write this on Friday 14th December I am also hoping that the 21st December will see the Durham pupils efforts rewarded in the whole school Christmas assembly.

Attendance

Attendance is the key to the progress your child makes at Dame Elizabeth. Durham pupils have been consistent at maintaining over 95% attendance throughout the Term and have improved year upon year. This time last year Durham were 95.04%, year to date we are 96.28%. An improvement of 1.24%. Congratulations to the forms who have maintained attendance over 95%, with massive congratulations to 7DM1 who have achieved 97.24% attendance for Autumn term. Our attendance improving year upon year shows the dedication and commitment from the pupils towards their education.

Parents/carers, your continued support to get your child/children into school has been imperative to their progress and I ask for your continued support to ensure they are attending school daily.

The Leading Forms for Attendance Year to date:

7DM1 – 97.24%
9DM1 – 97.16%
8DM1 – 97.13%
9DM2 – 97.07%
11DM1 – 96.97%
10DM1 – 96.67%

Outstanding/Positive Learning Behaviours

Pupils have continued to build on their positives and outstanding learning behaviours in lessons which have resulted in solid improvements in progress. The pupils have taken on the challenge of the new homework guidelines and have developed a deep understanding of achievement and have shown this through raising their efforts within lessons. Pupils receive outstanding learning points which are turned into a monetary gift for all pupils to purchase items from our rewards shop. The points can be cashed in at various parts of the year. All Durham pupils currently have a total of 38349. With the top pupil achieving 336 A.Dutta, followed closely with 321 D.Booth. The competition is on to see that one of these pupils will be crown the winner this summer term.

Top pupil from each year group receiving the most positives

The below pupils are going above and beyond in lessons to achieve their full potential. Every week there is a HOH award 'student of the week' which is delivered during our house assembly. The award goes to the pupil with most positives and 100% attendance. We have had many different winner's week upon week, with an overall outstanding winner in the Durham celebration assembly. This is a testament to the hard work pupils are putting in during lessons.

Name	Form	Positives
F. Banner	7DM1	180
N. Ali	8DM1	261
C. Xue	9DM2	253
B. Njohmson	10DM2	151
A. Dutta	11DM1	154

Autumn Term Plan & Goals:

Durham is looking to finish out 2018 successfully. We are aiming for an overall win in the Christmas assembly (21st December). After what has been a solid term for the staff and the pupils in Durham I have everything crossed we raise the trophy and celebrate right through the X-mas break!

I ask that we keep working hard, dig deep, and push through the cold January and February months to build on the success off autumn term. We all have pushed through the December dark mornings and dark nights; we pushed through the sniffles and the sore throats to achieve our goals. All pupils who have maintained 100% thus far, a huge well done from me. A well-earned rest at Christmas is a must.

Hard work is imperative to our success as a house; we have stuck to our plan of

1. Arrive to school every day, on time
2. Follow staff instructions
3. Complete all homework

Sticking to our House mantra 'Always Rising', we have risen to the challenge time and time again. I am proud of our achievements and each and every one of you.

This however this is the last newsletter from me as Durham head of house, a member of the senior leadership team and most importantly a member of staff at Dame Elizabeth. I leave for a new challenge on December 21st. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Head of house, leading and hopefully instilling my values as a person, as well as the school values into each pupil past and present. I will like to thank all the parents/carers who have supported me on my journey in reshaping your child/children into young adults and aspiring to achieve their goals. Mr James will be taking over Durham and I wish him all the success for the future.

Let the best house win in the Christmas celebrations, all pupils reflect on the term they have had and what will be changed on their return in January 2019.

Have a great Christmas and an amazing new year, I take with me a special memory of my time at 'Damo'

Best wishes,

Mr W Robinson
Head of House – Durham

Exeter House

Exeter House

As we end 2018 it is always good to reflect on the success of the Exeter house both as a house and recognise some key individuals who have been outstanding in different areas across school so far this term.

Culture & Ethos

The 2018/2019 academic year has seen the Exeter house evolve its culture and ethos incorporating some key principles of which all staff and students buy into and demonstrate on a daily basis to support us reach our common goals; which are to be the best house we can be at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury and achieve maximum outcomes for our pupils. Please see below for the Exeter key principles:

1. Attend school every day.
2. Achieve an outstanding lesson in every lesson.
3. Complete all pieces of homework.

Attendance

The backbone and underpinning factor to success academically is attendance. High attending students in Exeter are those who gain the best exam results at the end of year 11.

Exeter's current year to date attendance stands at 96.4% (The highest amongst the three houses).

This is higher than the same point last year by over 1.5% and is a massive achievement as a house raising the bar to ensure our attendance continues to be classed as outstanding. Many pupils within Exeter have maintained their 100% attendance record for the academic year so far (81 pupils) to be exact.

Congratulations to T.Hill who has achieved the MOST outstanding learning lessons across the autumn term for Exeter.

Outstanding/Positive Learning Lesson Behaviours

Having such good attendance as a house has impacted pupils in Exeter positively as expected. Many pupils have continued to build on their progress by achieving a considerable amount of outstanding and positive lesson learning behaviours during lessons this year. The top pupils from each year group receiving the most positives in Exeter are A.Jones (Year 7), M Park (Year 8), T.Hall (Year 9), A.Jordan (Year 10) and S.Gaibnazarov (Year 11).

Exeter Form Group Competition

Within Exeter we run a half termly form competition which takes all of the above key measures: attendance, positives and outstanding learning behaviours into consideration and gives a final placing in a league format. Congratulations to 8EX1 & 9EX1 who finish the year with the highest attendance in the house and most outstanding learning behaviours which have contributed to their overall first place position.

Summary

Exeter has had a really positive start to the 2018/2019 academic year aiming to maintain being the leading house at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury school alongside hitting our targets for attendance for the year and progress this year.

Exeter pupils keep your eyes on the horizon and always remember positive people make positive change.

Best Regards,
Mr R Hanson

Eyes on the **Horizon**



York House

Dates for the Diary

With the Christmas festivities nearing I would like to share some of the successes achieved by our students in York this half term. York students have been working diligently to achieve the best possible results for our house. They have recognised the importance of team work both in their forms and as a collective house; they have achieved some fantastic results. Below are some of the top performing forms in York who have worked collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for their form:

1st Place – 8YK2 2nd Place – 8YK1 3rd Place – 7YK1

Attendance

We currently have 73 students who have achieved 100% attendance since the start of the year, these students will receive a bonus 150 points if they are still on 100% at Christmas along with an Attendance Award certificate.

Well done to the three highest achieving forms for attendance to date:

7YK1 – 98.39%, 7YK2 – 97.30%, 9YK1 – 96.66%

Research shows that students must achieve 97% attendance or above to make expected progress in their subjects. Thank you to all parents and carers who work with us to help give your child/children the best chance of succeeding.

Points for positive contributions to lessons and/or the school community

York students are always setting a fantastic example to rest of the school and are eager to convey their understanding of our DEC values: Respect, Aspire, Believe, Commit. Students continue to work really hard to achieve additional positive points, in addition to outstanding learning logs. These points can be achieved in a variety of ways from displaying excellent manners at lunch time or taking part in extra-curricular activities. During the term to date, the highest achieving students in York are:

A.Jamshidi 9YK2 – 246, C.Richardson 9YK1 - 226, G.Langston 8YK2 - 215

Rewards

Finally, I am delighted to advise you that a number of York students will be awarded a DEC Award of Excellence next half term with York House having achieved the most amount of awards across the school:

White (2000 points) – 82 students	Bronze (4000 points) – 26 students
Silver (8000 points) – 8 students	Gold (11000 points) - 1 student

Congratulations to all York students for their efforts so far this year, it is imperative that we maintain our high standards of behaviour and attendance as we begin to look forward to 2019. I am exceptionally proud of our achievements so far and very much look forward to achieving multiple House trophies for York next year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms Greene | **Head of York**

Dates For Your Diary

Training Day – school open to staff only	7 th January
School open to all pupils/Target Setting session	8 th January
Year 11 Mock Exam results	16 th January
Early School Closure to pupil for staff training	18 th January
Year 10 Parents Evening	24 th January
SEND Coffee Morning	30 th January
Parent Forum	31 st January
Topic Day 3	11 th February
Year 8 Parents an Options Evening	14 th February
18/02/2019 – 22/02/2019 Half Term (1 Week)	
Year 7 Offer Day	26 th February
Year 9 Parents Evening	7 th March
Parent Forum	14 th March
Year 7 Offer Acceptance deadline	15 th March
Year 11 Parents Evening, Results Evening and Reports	21 st March
Year 7 Appeal Deadline/6 th Form Parents Evening	28 th March
Year 7 Parents Evening	11 th April
Year 11 Rewards Trip	12 th April
15/04/2019 – 26/04/2019 Easter Holiday (2 Weeks)	

Parental Safeguarding Reminders

We are becoming increasingly concerned regarding a snapchat and instagram page called **"brum baits"**. There appears to be picture and video content of indecent or sexual images of young people being uploaded with ways of contacting them? Our concerns have been passed to our linked police team.

Also, Tumblr is a social media site which focuses on old style blog posts. There has been reported a rise in blog sites which promote self harming. A lot of these sites have been providing tutorials on how to take apart pencil sharpeners for purposes of self harming and how to make other items for ease of self harming.

As always, we advocate all our parents to be aware of the social media communication our young people are having and be aware of what is being accessed on their phones.

Safeguarding team

Since September the safeguarding team here at DECS have continued their support work and intervention with both students and parents. Mr Walton (DSL), Ms Morris (school social worker) and Ms Minogue (attendance manager/Deputy DSL) have attended relevant CPD to further their practice knowledge.

Student Social Workers

Our 2 current student social workers are progressing well here at DECS within their 3rd year degree placements and at their mid point reviews were on track to pass and become qualified Social workers. Keep up the great work Jessica and Amber.

Safeguarding Updates

All staff including teaching and support staff have continued their on-going Safeguarding CPD sessions so they have the latest knowledge to be able to keep our young people safe.

Safeguarding Curriculum

Over this current half term our students have looked at issues such as The Windrush Generation, Bullying, Cyber Bullying, E safety, LGBT and Criminal exploitation/youth violence.

Some good websites for parents to look at are:

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers (E safety tips for parents),

www.youngminds.org.uk (Mental Health advice)

E-Safety Accreditation

We continue to work through the portfolio to secure the nationally recognised 360 degree award for E Safety and we to discuss this key topic at our parental forums and within our student council meetings.