

4th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope that all parents, carers, pupils and families remain well and resilient through the continued social distancing measures. We have been delighted with the fantastic feedback we have received from many of you, in recognition of the superb work staff continue to do to support pupils working at home, or those attending school.

We write today with an update on some upcoming events that were due to take place in the DEC calendar, as well as a general update on the work we are doing to continue supporting your child's education whilst school is closed.

We are determined to maintain regular communication, but are conscious that in order to reduce the volume of letters you receive, the information provided will cover a range of items. It is therefore important that you read all information carefully as each letter covers multiple areas.

Trips and upcoming calendar events:

- **Spring Assessment Data and Reports:** These had to be paused whilst staff dealt with the closure of schools and writing of the Home Learning Curriculum. We are finalising all of the data for the Spring Term and reports will be published very soon.
- **Enrichment Fortnight (July 2020):** This has been cancelled this year so that in the event of schools re-opening, we can concentrate all the curriculum time available to catching up on work pupils have missed.
- **Berlin Trip (July 2020):** This has been cancelled as we were unable to reschedule flights and other trip activities with the tour operator. We will begin processing refunds this week and write separately with further details.
- **Wales Trip (Jul 2020):** This has been rescheduled to October 2020. We are pleased to have avoided cancellation by moving the date to early next academic year.
- **Year 10 Work Experience:** This has been cancelled this year so that in the event of schools re-opening, we can concentrate all the curriculum time available to catching up on work pupils have missed.
- **Year 10 Parents' Evening:** This has been cancelled and will be rescheduled when schools re-open. We aim to provide additional parental events as pupils move into Year 11.
- **Year 7 Parents' Evening:** This has been cancelled and will be rescheduled when schools re-open.
- **Sports Day 2020:** This has been cancelled and will be rescheduled, if possible, when schools re-open.
- **New Year 7 Appeals:** These are due to take place during week beginning 01.06.20. We have made arrangements for all appeal hearings to take place by video or phone call.
- **New Year 7 Transition:** Induction Evening and Induction Day are likely to be different to the usual format this year. We have written to all new Year 7 parents recently and we are developing a fantastic, alternative transition programme to welcome our new Year 7 pupils to DEC. For more information visit:
<https://www.decschool.co.uk/induction/>

We acknowledge that pupils are going to be disappointed by the cancellation of so many great events that were due to take place this term but we know both parents and pupils will understand why we have had to make these decisions early to prevent costs due to last-minute cancellations. We will do our very best to reschedule activities where possible, once school is open and back to normal, whenever that may be.

I am sure, like us, you are eagerly awaiting the national release of what a recovery plan may look like for the country. We hope that this week's announcements will provide some indication of when schools may re-open. In the meantime, here is a summary of what we have done and will continue to provide for DEC pupils and families:

- **Fortnightly contact from your child's Form Tutor or Head of House** so we can keep in touch with everyone and respond to any issues you may be experiencing
- **More regular contact for our SEND pupils** from our dedicated SEND team, overseen by Mr Rackham. This contact has been especially helpful – from your feedback we have developed a parental guide for Home Learning and we will be releasing differentiated work for our SEND pupils in the next release of our Home Learning Curriculum
- **Weekly phone meetings for vulnerable pupils** or those with an EHCP. This has enabled us to review the elements of pupils' EHCPs so adjustments can be made to enable everyone to continue learning at home
- **Support for the ongoing FSM voucher issues:** we have a dedicated team of admin staff who provide immediate support for those who are still experiencing difficulties with the National Voucher Scheme
- **A dynamic curriculum**, which has been designed to consolidate and revise the content learned by pupils so far this year. We have deliberately varied the format and tasks in each Home Learning curriculum release on our website, with some year groups receiving a full package of printed work
- **We continue to provide printed packs** for anyone who is experiencing difficulty in accessing or completing the online work. A reminder that if you require support with the work pupils have been set, please contact enquiry@decschool.co.uk or the subject email addresses below.

Faculty	Contact	Email address
Mathematics, Psychology and H&S	Ms E Raine	mathssupport@decschool.co.uk
English and Drama	Mr T Hutton/ Mrs R Atton	englishsupport@decschool.co.uk
Science	Mr B Feenan	sciencesupport@decschool.co.uk
MFL	Ms V Lopez	mflsupport@decschool.co.uk
Humanities	Mrs N Delaney	humanitiessupport@decschool.co.uk
PE and Creative Arts	Mr J Smith	pecreativesupport@decschool.co.uk
Media, Computing, Business and Tech	Mr O Hanson	mediatechsupport@decschool.co.uk

We hope the updates above and overview of what we have done so far is useful. Please check your emails regularly, follow us on Twitter and check our text messages to ensure you stay up to date. This will also ensure you are able to respond to contact received from school staff during school closures. It is important that parents and carers reply to emails from Form Tutors or contact made by Heads of House so we know everyone is safe and well.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M. Dunn
Head Teacher