



Our Ref: NS/DLE/HeadteacherUpdates

Date: 11th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, thank you to all of you who have made us feel so welcome with your messages via email or over social media. We are really enjoying getting to know as many parents/carers as possible.

We thought everyone would appreciate an update of what is happening in school and an idea of what our plans for development are for the future.

Ties and uniform

We changed the school ties for Years 7 to 10 to promote House identity and help our House-based pastoral system run more efficiently, meaning we can promote positive behaviour more effectively.

Several parents have told us there are rumours that there are plans to change the uniform. We have no plans to make any significant changes to the uniform from September besides providing you with more cost effective alternatives which will be optional. We will update you about these in good time, well before we break up for the summer.

As of now, pupils can wear black sports leggings for PE if they choose to do so. We are giving pupils this new option after speaking with a focus group of pupils. If any pupil is unsure about what leggings are appropriate, they can speak with their PE teacher.



Communications

We want our teachers to put all of their energies into teaching, so only those staff who work in the House system (Heads of House, Assistant Heads of House, House PAs) will now be contacting home. If you need to give or receive information specific to your child, you need to contact your child's House Office and they will be able to provide this. Having a single point of contact means you get the most reliable information about your child at all times.

We always welcome feedback and, if you want to get in touch or you have general queries, please email enquiry@decschool.co.uk. During the week, we will aim to get back to you within 24 hours.



Website and twitter updates

We have been updating our website and twitter feed more frequently, with examples of pupils' achievements. Please have a read and follow us if you are a twitter user.

<https://decschool.co.uk/news/>
<https://decschool.co.uk/news/>

Catering update

There will be exciting updates to the catering provision in the coming weeks and we will be sharing more about this soon, including new menus.

In the meantime, some people have asked for clarification about pricing.

A meal deal, costing £2.40, consists of a hot main meal or a sandwich/wrap and a side (cake or biscuits). Pupils may also have a complimentary bottle of water.

School-appropriate fizzy drinks (caffeine-free, no added sugar) and fruit juices are not included in the meal deal but are available to be purchased separately.

All pupils eligible for Free School Meals are entitled to a meal deal at lunchtime and two pieces of toast at breaktime.

Detentions

A 20 minute detention can be set for the same day. This is unchanged. Anything longer than this will now be set with 24 hours' notice. You will know if your child has a detention because you will now see a sticker in their planner.

Exams update

If your child is in Year 11 or Year 13, here is everything you need to know about their upcoming exams and how you can support them.

<https://decschool.co.uk/summer-exams-faqs/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Lowbridge-Ellis
Associate Headteacher



Mr R Prime
Associate Headteacher

