



This week has taken us into the second week of our new home learning programme and I'm delighted to see so many students engaging with it. I hope that you had an opportunity to view some of the work we showcased earlier this week; this is something we will continue to bring to your attention. Whilst the majority of students have been able to access digital learning, some have been using paper packs to ensure that they are getting involved. Should your child be unable to access digital learning for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact the school via email (either the school mailbox or your child's head of house) and we will ensure materials are made available to you in a format that works best for you.

Our support staff are continuing to make regular contact with a wide range of students using morning check-in forms, small group house meets on Teams and phone calls home. A range of wellbeing supports can still be found on our school website and app and our counselling service, Your Space, remain available for all students. West Lothian Council's website contains further information on where residents can get advice or support for a wide range of issues they may be experiencing at this time. Including financial and funding support.

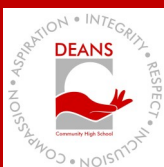
At this time of year we would normally be in the midst of the final stages of our P7 transition programme, with P7 students visiting the school and taking part in a range of activities. Whilst we are unable to be in the school building, we do still have a transition programme in place, albeit in a different format. Mr Small (DHT for S1 and S2) is in the midst of contacting P7 parents by phone to introduce himself to them and talk through any questions or concerns they may have and continues to work closely with our Primary colleagues. He and the support team are also putting together a range of transition activities and we will contact P7 parents and students in due course to give them details of this.

Like you, we have been heartened to hear so many stories of people's efforts to help one another through the Coronavirus crisis, whether this be as part of their job, volunteering in the community or organising virtual get-togethers with friends. Some of our students and staff are among those who are able (and we're grateful that so many are) and willing to do something extra to support and I would like to share a few examples of this with you.

**Kieran Rhodes** has been School Captain at Deans Community High School for this session and has for many years undertaken voluntary work within the wider West Lothian community. He has now been redeployed from his usual volunteering role in the Emergency Department at St John's Hospital to support staff on the wards. Kieran has been keeping patients company who are lonely or distressed due to the cancellation of visiting in the hospital and has been supporting with meal times and general house keeping on the ward. He has also taken up another role supporting the distribution of donations around the hospital. This is all in great preparation as Kieran goes on to join the MBChB Gateway to Medicine Programme at University of Dundee to embark on his journey to becoming a Doctor. Kieran was thanked by Olympic Swimmer, Tom Daley who sent him a video message.

You can watch the video on DeansTV: <https://vimeo.com/user17177928>

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As normal our website - [www.deanscommunityhighschool.com](http://www.deanscommunityhighschool.com) - contains information updates for students and parents/carers. Have a look in our News items and the Information sections in Student Zone & Parent/carer Zone. Our Health & Wellbeing section is also updated with information and resources.



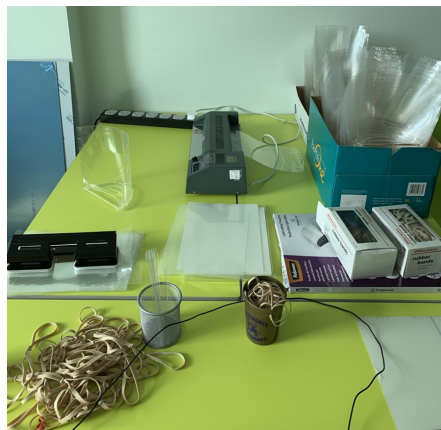
**Mr Dibdin**, one of our Home Economics teachers has registered as an NHS Responder, one of the many who has volunteered to help. Below are some pictures of him shopping and delivering to an elderly couple who can't leave the house during this time.

Mr Dibdin said it's been a learning curve for him with shopping lists and following those supermarket directional arrows, but it is keeping him fit.



Some of the staff in our **Design, Manufacture and Graphics Department** at Deans have been, along with other schools in West Lothian Council, manufacturing visors for the NHS and key workers.

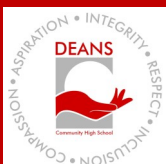
The visors are made using acrylic sheet and laminating pouches. The department is making use of their laser cutter to cut all the acrylic components.



As always, please take care and stay safe.

*Pauline Allison*

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Head Teacher



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