

# Deans Community High School

# UPDATE

[www.deanscommunityhighschool.com](http://www.deanscommunityhighschool.com) email: [wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk](mailto:wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk)



Having now completed 3 weeks of the new home learning programme, we have begun to gather feedback from students, staff and parents on how this is going, with a view to making improvements where we can. Traditionally this time of year is when we collate all of the ongoing self-evaluation that has been completed throughout the session and use this to decide on our priorities for next session. Circumstances being as they are at the moment, long term planning is more difficult to do and the majority of our self-evaluation at this time is to allow us to make changes quickly. These are around the two main areas of home learning and health and wellbeing.

You should have received a group call message yesterday asking you to complete a short survey and a similar one was issued to students. We would be grateful if you could complete the parent/carer survey and encourage your child to complete their own one. The quick turn-around for these will help us to take any required action much faster, something we all seem to be getting used to as the global situation changes so rapidly.

A normal part of every teacher's practice is to ask students for feedback on how effective their lessons have been and this has continued to be the case through digital learning, particularly where teachers have been trying out different formats such as audio or video. Getting the right pace of learning is much more challenging when we can't see the students and interact with them in the normal way, and teachers are still adjusting this as they get feedback from students and parents.

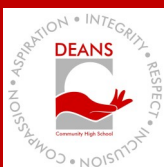
I am very grateful to those of you who have been in touch to let us know where something has not been working and equally to let us know what is working well. This has helped us to respond quickly to resolve any issues and build upon successes.

I am acutely aware of the many challenges that you face with home schooling. Please be assured that we absolutely do not expect you to be teaching your child, that is still very much our role and please do contact us if you feel that this is not the case. Encouraging your child to take part in the lessons and attempt the tasks assigned to them whilst asking their teacher for help when needed will make a big difference to how much they engage. Every child will have different home circumstances and respond in their own way to this new way of learning and a good deal of flexibility is needed by all of us in finding the right balance between continuing with learning and good mental health. If there are aspects of this that we can help with, please either get in touch with us or look on our website for any other supports that you can access.

This Monday is a local holiday in Livingston and I would encourage all students to use that day to take a rest from home learning and try to enjoy the day as best they can. Teachers will not be on-line that day and teaching will resume on Tuesday morning.

As always, please take care and stay safe.

Pauline Allison  
Head Teacher



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.

