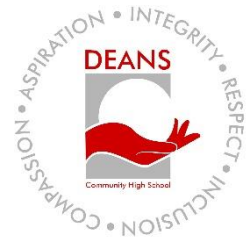


Parent Update

4 September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

This week's biggest change was the new guidance on wearing face coverings in school. This has probably been the biggest challenge we have had in how we go about our day since returning to school as wearing a mask looks and feels very different to our usual routine. Staff have been taking care to follow this new guidance themselves and the vast majority of students who are able to wear a mask have been arriving to school with their own, whilst we have been happy to issue disposable masks to any who need them. Staff have been reminding students to wear their face coverings in the corridors and social spaces and I would be very grateful if you could reinforce the message at home too. As is the case for all of us, we really hope that by everyone following the guidance, we can return to our normal lives as soon as possible.

PE

The current Scottish Government guidance around PE is still that practical lessons should only take place outdoors. We are expecting an update on this within the next couple of weeks but in the meantime, please ensure that your child is suitably prepared for outdoors lessons with a jacket etc as we want students to participate in active lessons as much as possible.

Bringing Items to School

We are following strict guidance at the moment regarding deliveries to the school and the handling of these. As such, should you need to bring something to the school for your child (lunch, PE kit etc) the office staff are unable to take this from you. They will instead ask you to wait in the school reception area whilst they arrange for your child to come to meet you and take the items from you. This may mean that you have to wait for a few minutes but I would ask for your patience and understanding.

Annual Updates/Parentsportal

S1 – S3 parents/carers should have received a groupcall message from West Lothian Council encouraging you to sign up to parentsportal along with guidance on how to do this. A similar message will be sent to S4 – S6 parents/carers shortly. Once you have signed up to this, please update your child's details. It is particularly important during the current pandemic that we have up to date medical details for your child and emergency contact details. Using parentsportal to do this will enable you to make changes as and when they occur and prevent paper forms being passed between the school and home, reducing the risk of spreading the virus.

Lifesaving Deans Student

For the past few years, senior students have participated in the Anthony Nolan stem cell register, in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Anthony Nolan is a blood cancer charity whose aim is to match up people in need of stem cells or bone marrow, primarily those who have blood cancer, to potential donors. By signing up, you are added to the donor register and we have been very proud of the high number of our students who have been keen to do this. We were recently informed that one of those who signed up has gone on to donate stem cells and save a life. This is a first for the Falkirk and West Lothian area and we are prouder than ever that it was a Deans student who could do this.

A lovely ray of hope in a worry time.

School Calendar

Normally we would have issued the school calendar to you by now, however the reallocation of the four days holiday that were used to reopen early in August have yet to be confirmed to us. This should take place early next week and we will then send you details of all holiday and in-service dates.

Staffing Update

Final stage interviews were held this week for the post of Depute Head Teacher here at Deans. I am delighted to inform you that Mr Stephen Small, currently Acting DHT, was the successful candidate and will remain with us. Mr Small will retain his current remit of head of year for S1/2, primary liaison and additional support.

Should you have any concerns around your child's health and wellbeing or learning, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher

Reminder of Covid 19 Prorocols

As you are aware, with the return of our pupils and staff to school, we have put procedures in to place that support all members of the school community if anyone displays symptoms of Covid 19.

A reminder that the symptoms are:

- High temperature or fever
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste

If a pupil displays symptoms, we will contact you to collect your child (please ensure that we have your most up to date contact details). **Pupils over the age of 16 may return home themselves.** The pupil should, if possible, wear a face covering en route and avoid public transport.

You will be asked to follow Test and Protect and we will provide you with a copy of the Test and Protect Leaflet and Step by Step Guide when your child is collected.

Information on the groups of children within the school, **and on school transport**, and the adults that each group of children come in to contact with will be collected. This is to fulfil legal responsibilities for public health and will allow Test and Protect to contact appropriate people in the event of a positive test result.

If anyone within your household tests positive for Covid 19, please do not send your child to school. Report their absence and the reason for this by calling PSA in the morning.