



# DEDWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### Headteacher's News

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is Friday again! Not quite the bright and sunny Friday afternoon that we all wish for but another fortnight has whizzed past and I am back to fill you in on all our news and successes this last two weeks. I have to say I am settling quickly into the Dedworth life and all stakeholders are being so welcoming and receptive. The pupils have been fantastic meeting and greeting using sign language and it has been lovely to walk in and out of classrooms seeing them all learning in class. I have visited some PE lessons this week too which have been amazing – the children look so smart and it is clear and evident to see how much they enjoy this lesson. It has also been a pleasure to see so many pupils involved in the after school sports clubs this week; it has been far too long a gap since we have had the pleasure of running these. This is clearly a school to be proud of! We are on a journey together and I hope we will all see some clear improvements in the coming months. The teachers are working so incredibly hard to get the curriculum engaging, creative and up to date whilst all staff members are working behind the scenes to ensure we are all safe, learning and behaving with the high expectations we all want at Dedworth.

Talking of high expectations, can I politely remind you all of our uniform policy. Long hair must be tied back; no make up or painted nails in school; shirts should all be tucked in and we only allow one pair of studs in earlobes – no other jewellery please (religious bands are acceptable). We are seeing more and more pupils wearing two earrings in one ear, coloured earrings and bracelets/rings etc. These are not welcome at school so please do support us in this. I am however delighted to inform you that GOYALS in Maidenhead is now stocking our shirts/blouses, ties and jumpers as well as DMS hoodies and DMS jogging bottoms all at competitive prices. We realise that the weather is changing and pupils need to wear their PE kit all day on PE days, therefore Goyals has designed these for us. They are warm, comfortable and not expensive at £15 for a navy blue DMS hoodie (with your child's initials on it) or just £12 for the bespoke jogging bottoms. These are all available to buy in store or online now (Goyals, 28 Bridge Street, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8BJ, [sales@goyals.co.uk](mailto:sales@goyals.co.uk)).



I would also like to thank you all for your patience and support in not coming on site during the school day – this is really important whilst keeping the children socially distanced in their bubbles, the staff safe in their areas and also ensuring the school continues to run as smoothly as possible in these challenging circumstances. We are allowing the children to wear masks in any communal areas, inside and out, but they are asked to kindly remove them in their classroom whilst learning. We are still encouraging the extra hand washing as well as hand sanitising at every entrance and exit and the pupils are also receiving more social and emotional learning in their tutor times to help them cope with this situation. All of us are in this together and the uncertainty continues to grow each day so please bear with us as we also keep up to date with ever changing government guidelines – we continue to update our risk assessments and are content currently with all we are doing. Please do ensure you follow the absence procedures correctly and also help us in maintaining all this by not visiting the school during the day. Email or call the office and we will do everything we can to help.

Next week we are holding our Virtual Open Evening for prospective parents. It is such a shame we cannot have any visitors but like all schools, this is not possible. Our website will be ready for Tuesday's presentation where we will have available my presentation, virtual tour, talks by year 5 and 8 as well as some introductions to key staff. Please feel free to view this yourselves too. All the information is up to date!

I am looking forward to meeting my year 7 and 8 Hot Chocolate winners in a few hours so will sign off now and wish you all a safe and restful weekend.  
With very best wishes to you all,

Mrs Nicola Chandler  
Executive Headteacher

## **Meet the Staff (Virtually!)**

We have uploaded staff profiles to our website so you are able to put a face to a name! You can find them here: [Staff profiles](#)

## **Hot Chocolate Friday**

Our Hot Chocolate Friday winners were:

### **KS2 (last week)**

Emily Easton 5SS as she was selected to be part of a national gymnastics squad.  
Enrique Najera 5CB because he was extremely helpful in class.  
Abdur Aslam 6NP as he showed some wonderful acts of kindness in the playground.

### **KS3 (this week)**

Aamina Hussain 7KPE due to her drive and resilience in maths.  
Tiernan MacLua Lloyd 8MS for always being on task, organised, polite and helpful.  
Summer Latham 7AI for participating in every maths lesson and supporting her peers.  
Hope Collins 8SP for being proactive and working extremely hard in English.

They enjoyed a hot chocolate and a chat with Mrs Chandler in her office.

## **Junior Leadership Team**

This week Mrs Chandler and I were privileged to interview some year 8's for the most senior leadership role for pupils at Dedworth; the Junior Leadership Team. It is always a very exciting time but we were truly astounded with the standard of some of the interviews this year. The pupils were very mature, professional and enthusiastic. They presented us with ideas about how they would undertake their role and some excellent suggestions on the positive contributions they could make to the school. The decisions we had to make when assigning the roles was extremely difficult due to the exceptionally high standard. We are delighted to announce the four members of the Junior Leadership team for 20-21 are as follows:

Head girl - Tirion Watkins  
Deputies - Milly Armiger, Freya Burton and Eden Crossley

Congratulations to the successful pupils and thanks to all that took the time to apply and interview for these roles.

Mr O'Donnell  
Behaviour for Learning Lead.

## **Change to Start and Finish Times**

We have re-visited the risk assessment regarding the timings of pupils coming into school and leaving the school site. In order to give the pupils a more settled start to lesson 1, we are revising those times slightly, still in-keeping with government guidelines.

**From Monday (28<sup>th</sup> September),** Pupil start and finish times will be as follows:

<b>Surname Initial</b>	<b>Start time</b>	<b>Finish time</b>
A-G	8.40	3.05
H-O	8.45	3.10
P-Z	8.50	3.15

Thank you for your support.

## **Water Bottles**

Please can we request that all pupils bring two water bottles into school everyday so they have enough to last them the whole day. Unfortunately, government guidelines mean that pupils are not allowed to use the water fountains at present.

## **European Day of Languages**

Please look out on Class Dojo for details of 2 competitions to mark the European Day of Languages, which always takes place on 26th September each year:

1. Routes into Languages Poster Competition - take part in a national competition to spread the message of the importance of learning languages, promoting intercultural awareness and design a poster about another country you would like to visit or have visited before. Your poster should tell us which country it is and some facts about it (language, food, music, landmarks etc) - the more the better! Each poster should be no bigger than A4 and must be completed by hand but any form of materials can be used - felt tips, paint, fabric etc. Hand your poster in to Madame Stratton by Friday 2nd October. Please add your full name and form. There are Amazon E-vouchers up for grabs - go on Dedworth!
2. Virtual Bake Off - Calling all cake decorators! The French Department challenges you to bake a cake from a different culture or to decorate a cake with an international theme! Please take a photo before tucking in to your culinary delights and send to Madame Stratton via Class Dojo, ready to be seen by the judging panel. Prizes to be won for the most delicious creations.

## **Reminder to all Pupils**

As the weather is now turning cooler, students should be coming into school with a warm waterproof coat as they are outside at break and lunch as much as possible.

## **KS3 News**

### **Message to all Y7 students from Mrs Stratton and the Y7 tutors**

Well done to those students who always come to school well prepared with the correct equipment! However, we are beginning to see some students arriving at school without vital equipment for the day. Please ensure you pack your bag the night before and have the following items: pens, purple pen, pencils, rubber, ruler (not the flexible type please), colouring pencils, glue stick, reading book and scientific calculator for maths lessons (CASIO FX83GTX). Thank you for your support.

## Year 8 Boys

As I am sure you are aware, The Windsor Boys' School will sadly be unable to hold their usual Open Evening this term due to the ongoing pandemic. In the absence of this event however, a virtual Open Evening will be available to view on their school website <https://twbs.co.uk> from the evening of **Tuesday 29th September 2020**. Their prospectus can also be found online and they are arranging for some hard copies to be delivered here this week. If you have any questions or queries, please contact TWBS school office at [mail@twbs.co.uk](mailto:mail@twbs.co.uk).

## Covid 19

The government have issued a letter for parents which explains when a person requires a coronavirus test and what the symptoms of coronavirus are.

[You can view the letter here](#)

The local NHS Trust has issued the flowchart below to help parents decide whether to send their child to school when they are ill. Please refer to the NHS website if you need further guidance: [NHS](#)

