

Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Autumn 2021

Autumn Update

We've had a fantastic start to the new academic year, pupils have shown great resilience and diligence with their learning so far.

Each half-term we will prepare an update as well as a half-termly newsletter for parents to keep you up to date with the busyness of school life.

Welcome and well done: A particular well done needs to go to our year 7 and year 12 pupils for their fantastic start to a new chapter for them. We'd like to give special recognition to:

Year 7: Daniel C, Poppy F & Tyrese P-G for the start they have made to Year 7.

Year 12: Shalom, Suranjit & Priya for settling in so well.

Reading & Bedrock:

We expect all of our pupils to read regularly- 3 times per week as a minimum, for 20 minutes. Pupils need approximately 50,000 words to be successful at school, and after the age of 5, we learn new words mainly through reading. We have some fantastic book recommendations on our school website: <https://decschool.co.uk/reading/>

Bedrock: Bedrock is an online vocabulary programme, pupils read short extracts online and then have to answer questions based on the text and the vocabulary. This has had a significant impact for our pupils over the last 12 months. Pupils will be set two 20-minute lessons to complete each Monday- they will have 7 days to complete. If completed pupils will receive positives, but if not complete they will have a 20-minute detention on Monday after school. We have computers available each day after school for pupils who may find it difficult to access wi-fi or devices at home. For our new Year 7 pupils- you will soon receive a letter explaining Bedrock along with your log-in details.

Homework: We have reintroduced homework gradually to our lower year groups- to safeguard their well-being. We will now be following the homework timetables to ensure workload for pupils is manageable, whilst teaching them good study habits. Pupils will record homework in their planners daily.

Extra-Curricular: Our extra-curricular programme is now in full swing, and the timetable of activities is available via our website: <https://decschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Autumn-Timetable.pdf>. We look forward to seeing as many pupils as possible at our clubs.

Combined Cadet Force: We have now enrolled 42 cadets with the Combined Cadet Force, which we are so proud of. Our Cadets meet every Monday after school. If pupils are interested, they can speak to Sergeant Doble or Mr Wright in school.

Attendance: It goes without saying that attendance is crucial to a successful experience of school. Please ensure your child is in school each day by 8.40am to avoid them being marked as late, and having a late detention, which will take place on the same day.

If your child is ill, please contact school, via your child's House office, and explain the reason for their absence. We will operate a spotlight on attendance process to ensure all of our pupils have the very best chance of succeeding at school; this is more important than ever in light of the turbulence our pupils have experienced as a result of COVID. We will soon be sending a letter outlining this process to all our families.

SEND support: Each term we review our SEND register to ensure the right pupils are receiving support. Some pupils may no longer need additional support, and will be transitioned to a monitoring register. This is currently under review, and if your child is affected, we will contact you in writing.

Additionally, interventions to support literacy, numeracy and social interaction are now beginning- you will receive a letter to inform you if your child is involved, and how this will be taking place over the coming weeks.

Inclusion: Please note that if any of our pupils have to spend a period of time in isolation, they will not have access to hot food, or sweet treats. Pupils will have access to drinks, a selection of sandwiches and fruit. Pupils are of course welcome to bring their own packed lunches.

■ RESPECT

■ ASPIRE

■ BELIEVE

■ COMMIT

