



DTA Newsletter

Theme of the Week:

School Vision

Friday 21st April
2017

Spring is here!

IN THIS ISSUE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and I hope your child has had a restful Easter break. Pupils have been bright and positive upon their return to school and have been eager to get off to a flying start. The calm atmosphere around school shows how well pupils have now settled in to the school's ways. We have a term packed with activities, including residential Outward Bound trips to the Lake District, our second Key 103 fundraising event, end of year exams, a summer concert, our first Sports Day and an Awards evening, just to name a few! Early preparation work for interim assessments and end of year exams are under way; we are teaching pupils to develop their revision techniques and giving plenty of homework time to preparing effectively. I would like to welcome Mr Platt, Assistant Headteacher and Mr Carey, Head of Humanities, who have just joined the staff this term. They will be working hard getting to know pupils, staff and parents, so please read their short article in this week's edition. Our theme this week has been about the school vision. Staff and governors have worked together on shaping our vision and we have shared it with pupils this week: Everyone can achieve their highest potential and ambition through daily personal and academic excellence. Our Romeo and Juliet production (see our photo gallery on the website) together with some great Spring term test results proved that this is possible, and we firmly believe this vision is achievable for every pupil in the school. Our vision in full will appear on the school website shortly and we shall let you know as soon as it is ready.

We hope you enjoy this week's newsletter.
Yours sincerely

Headteacher

345 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4DY

t: 0161 972 2988

e: admin@deantrustardwick.co.uk

w: www.deantrustardwick.co.uk/

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Year 7 News

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to the summer term and I hope everyone had a restful half term break. Year 7s have come back raring to go this term and what a fantastic start we have had. We started with a welcome back assembly to share and revisit our school vision with Ms Finlay, an evening trip to see Manchester United and an update on three outstanding Year 7 pupils who took part in a live debate with Ashton on Mersey School. A huge well done to Timi, Billie and Hazel for representing DTA and discussing a range of topics that are important to young people. A reminder to all pupils that DTA debate club is on every Thursday Lunchtime.



Year 8 welcome back message

Welcome back! I hope you and your family have had a lovely break and enjoyed the quality time together. The term has now begun and in full swing and I have been really impressed with the excellent start the pupils have made so far. I truly believe that the current cohort in Year 8 will continue the superb progress they displayed last term and grow from strength to strength as we start our final term here at Dean Trust Ardwick.



Welcome

Mr Platt

My name is Mr Simon Platt and I have the pleasure of joining the Senior Leadership Team at Dean Trust Ardwick as an Assistant Headteacher. I am an experienced leader who will work closely with the curriculum and pastoral teams, ensuring that the school vision and values are understood and followed by all. I have successfully led two faculties in two very different schools and have been an Assistant Headteacher in a Catholic High School in South Manchester. I feel it is vital that the pupils feel supported and challenged during their journey through Dean Trust Ardwick, and therefore I will ensure as a senior leader our high standards are maintained and that we are fair, honest and open about everything we do. It is important that pupils see the school as a place where they can develop and progress along the right pathway so I look forward to planning super careers guidance for pupils to start in September. Dean Trust Ardwick will be seen as a continuing success story within Manchester, and should be celebrated in as many ways as possible, including among pupils, parents and the wider community. Building strong, sustainable community links will ensure that Dean Trust Ardwick continues on its journey to become the most dynamic and successful school in Manchester. I look forward to meeting many of you in the future.



Mr Carey

As a new member of the Dean Trust Ardwick community, I would like to thank both staff and pupils for making me feel welcome during my first week at the school. I have recently relocated to Manchester from Bedfordshire having taught in the area for a number of years. I am therefore looking forward to the exciting opportunities which living and working in Manchester offers, including some exceptional golf courses! As the new Head of Humanities, overseeing Geography, History, Religious Education, Citizenship and PSHE, I look forward to working with both staff and pupils to ensure that every young person has the best opportunity possible to harness their exceptional potential whilst enjoying their learning.



Pupil Voice

In order to provide pupils with the opportunity to contribute to the creation of the school vision, ethos and values a pupil voice activity has recently taken place. Pupils were provided with a list of generic values which have been circulated to staff and some parents prior to the session. Pupils then had the opportunity to work collaboratively to discuss the values they felt were most important to them and rank them. Pupils added values of their own before coming up with the top 5 values that the Dean Trust Ardwick embraces the most.



Library

If you borrowed a book from the School Library to read over the Easter Holidays, please make sure that you bring it back.



I Matter

This week parents and carers will have received a letter outlining the sex and relationships education we provide at Dean Trust Ardwick. The science department deliver SRE through the national curriculum and humanities department follow the I MATTER programme (created by Manchester Council and the NHS). We believe it is vital that our pupils have access to this information in order to make informed decisions about their bodies and their lives. We would like to reassure parents and carers that all content is age appropriate and delivered in an honest and non-judgemental environment. If you would like to access information that will support SRE at home consider looking at the following websites: <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Talkingaboutsex>, www.brook.org.uk, <http://www.fpa.org.uk/help-and-advice/advice-for-parents-carers>



English

GET GOTHIC IN ENGLISH! This week in English, Year 7 have been learning about Gothic Literature, in preparation for their study of the famous novel Frankenstein, by Mary Shelley. Pupils have been learning about the frightening features of the genre, as well as the unsettling scientific and technological developments that took place across Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. There has also been some discussion of the Gothic features of lots of modern novels and films! It has been a fantastic way to begin a new term.



Mathematics

You are on a plane. You have 50 gallons of fuel on board, and only 48 of that is usable. You are burning 8.5 gallons/hour. Will you be able to make your destination with a half hour reserve of fuel? In order to solve this question we need algebra. This is the topic that many of our Year 7s have started this week. Giving Year 7 a good understanding of algebra now is important as algebra is used in most jobs from fitness to civil engineering, from an animator to a doctor. Make sure you are using MathsWatch to recap your lessons.

Physical Education

Welcome back to all pupils after their Easter break. During the first week back pupils have been participating in their new sports, weather this be volleyball, cricket or tennis. Pupils are beginning to develop fundamental skills for these sports and many pupils are taking to the sports really quickly, developing skills at a rapid rate.

We are encouraging pupils to look at the TV monitors around school to find at least one extracurricular club they can attend, as these clubs provide great opportunities to develop physical, mental and social skills.



345 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4DY

t: 0161 972 2988

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w: www.deantrustardwick.co.uk/

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Year 7 Awards

BfL Grade 1 Form of the Week

BfL Form of the Week Winners:

Palace – 42 Grade 1s

Form of the Week Attendance

Deansgate – 98.9%

BfL Grade 1 Top Five Pupils of the Week

BfL Grade 1 winners will return next week.

Year 8 Awards

BfL Grade 1 Form of the Week

BfL Form of the Week Winners:
Lowry – 56 Grade 1s

BfL Grade 1 Top Pupils of the Week

BfL Grade 1 winners will return next week.

Form of the Week Attendance

Piccadilly – 98.7%

Congratulations!

Whole School Attendance

This week's full school attendance is

96.5%

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