



NEWSLETTER

28th March 2022

Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

The time has come for me to write you my final weekly newsletter.

Since I wrote to you to announce my retirement at the end of the autumn term, the time has sped by for me , and here I am with one week left of my long career.

Last week was an emotional rollercoaster for me as I held my final assemblies with all year groups. The best part of every assembly for me was to shake the hands of every pupil and wish them well. The responses from pupils were overwhelming.

On Wednesday I had the pleasure of celebrating my retirement with the Trust, our governors, the Local Authority, Manchester Heads, our partner primary Heads and significant people in my career from my previous schools. The performances from pupils were absolutely stunning and I was so proud of them. so many visitors mentioned the quality of the musical and literary talent, together with the exemplary manners of the Y11 prefects who welcomes people and served them refreshments. I was so proud of our pupils.



Ms S. Finlay
Headteacher

To add to that, I was extremely humbled by the many parents who came to my last Coffee Morning on Friday to wish me well. I am still trying to digest the speeches parents made, and the exquisite buffet they prepared, together with a beautiful cake for me. I shall never forget that experience and I wish to thank all those parents for having such faith in me to lead Dean Trust Ardwick.

I am very fortunate to hand over my leadership to Mr Worthington, who has worked alongside me for seven years as my deputy, and has been transitioning to Head of School this term. He knows the school very well and will continue with the high standards I have established. You are in very safe hands and he will take DTA successfully through its next years of growth.

Returning to my roots in Manchester to complete my career life is a gift for me and these 7 years have been the best and most fulfilling of my 38 years as a teacher. Your support has had a major impact on the school's success and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sending your children to Dean Trust Ardwick. I have done my utmost to serve your community and provide a great school for local children, of which I am very proud. I hope you are proud , and remain proud, of this school too.

My time here draws to a close now, and I am ready for the next phase in my life. I wish you all the very best of health and happiness for you and your families. I wish for every pupil who attends Dean Trust Ardwick that they thrive, and find their purpose and way in life , and can look back at DTA with real pride that they belonged.

Goodbye,

Ms S. Finlay



Head of Year Messages

Year 7 – Mrs Rashford *Year 7 will miss you, Ms. Finlay!*



This week pupils have had their last goodbyes with Ms Finlay, who led our assembly. It has been a week to be proud of with some of our pupils in Year 7 performing poems, music and more at the farewell celebration for Ms Finlay. Pupils who contributed to this celebration with such maturity and grace have received a prize from Ms Finlay as a token of appreciation for their efforts and talented performances. Next week we will be celebrating pupil successes in our achievement assemblies. There will be many prizes to be won next week from certificates to vouchers and more, please join me in congratulating all pupils next week.

Year 8 – Mr Smith *Year 8 wished Ms Finlay goodbye!*



This week the Year 8 pupils showed their appreciation and thanks to Ms Finlay in her final assembly. They listened intently to the great stories Ms Finlay told on how she had progressed in her career and the values and character traits she had developed that they would need to show to succeed in life. It was also lovely to hear how the school had been built up from scratch in both the physical and spiritual sense and we all agreed as a year group that we would ensure that Ms Finlay's vision would be carried out by us once she leaves. To complete the week we were treated to a vocal duet by Angel and Kezia, this was a beautiful moving piece that received a standing ovation!

Year 9 – Mr Diaz *Year 9 will be celebrating their achievements next week!*



This week pupils have had their last goodbyes with Ms Finlay, who led our assembly. The entire year group took turns to wish farewell to their headteacher. This was an emotional and empowering moment! Year 9 pupils have grown in maturity and have demonstrated excellent character traits. Next week, we will be celebrating pupil successes in our achievement assemblies. We have also had a high interest from pupils wanting to take a place for the end of school year trip to Scotland, if your child wishes to attend they must hand in their applications as soon as possible. Places are available on a first come, first served basis.

Year 10 – Mr Chetwyn *Well done to the pupils who attended the Oxford trip!*



What a great week it has been for Year 10 pupils! Firstly, a group of our pupils were offered the unique opportunity to spend two days and nights at Oxford Christ Church College, part of Oxford University. Pupils got to see the sights, take part in some superb university sessions, meet current students and ask them questions about university life. It was an amazing trip and our pupils were absolutely superb! In addition to this, Ms Finlay has spent the time delivering a special assembly this week to inspire our year group, with several pupils commended for their achievements. It's been truly humbling as a Head of Year to see our pupils develop so quickly from young children into young adults, and I'm truly proud of what we've achieved so far this year.

Year 11 – Mr Hull *Year 11 have been working hard to meet deadlines!*



In our penultimate week before the Easter break, many pupils have been working really extensively to complete coursework deadlines. In Food Technology, the food has been delicious and the presentation stunning as pupils have been making various dishes worthy of Manchester's finest restaurants! In Business Studies, Sports Studies, Technology and Computer Science, pupils and staff have been working together to meet stringent deadlines and make sure work is of the highest quality. We also launched our mentoring programme this week, with support from the Prince's Trust, and initial feedback was really positive. With the Easter break looming, it's truly important that pupils use the Easter holidays wisely. It is essential that they rest and recuperate, but also they maintain the momentum in terms of revision.

Safeguarding Tip: There are lots of different activities in and around Manchester to keep your children busy and entertained over the Easter break – see link below for inspiration –

<https://www.visitmanchester.com/whats-on/whats-on-this-easter-in-manchester?p=1>

Diary Dates

School Closes for Easter	31 st March
Inset Day	1 st April
School Reopens	19 th April
Year 8 Reach Out Trip	26 th April
Return to School	19 th April

Year 10 Oxford University Trip

Some of our Year 10 pupils went to visit Oxford University!

On Monday 21st March, 14 Year 10 pupils were offered the unique experience of attending a 2 day and night stay at the prestigious Oxford Christ Church College! Day 1 started with a full tour of Christ Church College, including an exclusive tour of the college grounds, a very rare and amazing visit to the ‘2nd floor’ of the CC library (their oldest book was 8th century!) and lunch and tea in the amazing banquet hall. After a big breakfast on day 2, it was off to Corpus Christi College for specialised university taster sessions and experiences, including a session on study skills and techniques, exploring and developing some really useful strategies and techniques for revision. We also got to meet more current students to discuss their experiences of university applications and living as a student in Oxford! After a delicious lunch we then took part in an excellent English taster session, exploring the importance and meaning of letters & diving in to the life of Emily Dickinson! In the afternoon on Day 2 it was off to the Chemistry department for an emergency session - Professor Brouer has been ‘poisoned’! DTA pupils were needed urgently to crack the ‘chemistry code’ to find the antidote! On day 3 we took a lovely walk across town to the National History Museum which was a great way to round off such a fantastic trip! We even managed a little stop in the souvenir shop on the way back to the mini-bus before setting off home.



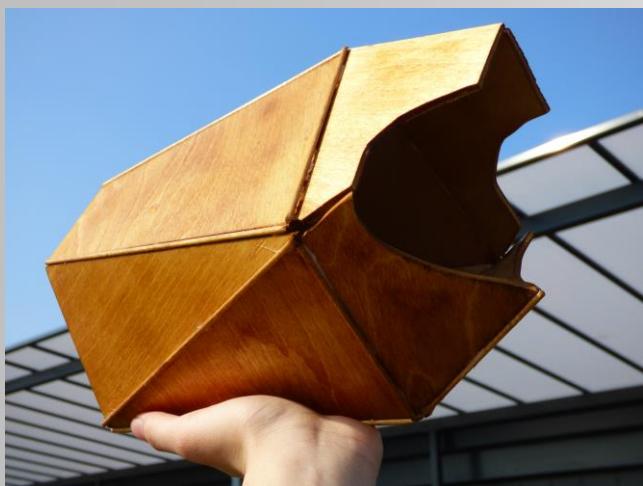
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Design and Technology

Year 11 pupil, Shihab, photographed the birdhouse he made!

After Year 11 pupil, Shihab, has built a birdhouse as part of his Design and Technology coursework. Shihab used plywood to build the birdhouse and he achieved the stained look by using coffee. Shihab chose coffee because it is environmentally-friendly and keeps insects away. He also photographed the birdhouse to show the different ways it can be placed. Well done Shihab for your impressive work.



Year 11 Football

Our Year 11 football team played their final matches!

After five successful years of representing the school in football, the Year 11 team brought the curtain down on their DTA footballing careers this week. After a rich journey across the playing fields and schools of Manchester, these players have grown as a team and shared many triumphs. Their final games of their time together saw a win, a loss and a draw. They were narrowly beaten 2-3 by MEA Central, shared a thrilling 4-4 draw with St Peters and enjoyed a comprehensive 4-0 victory over Co-Op Blackley. Throughout their time at DTA, the team has been coached and managed by Mr Burney, and as a token of their recognition for his efforts, the players presented him with a signed football prior to their final game together.



Ms. Finlay's Retirement Celebration

Our pupils did us proud!

This week, some of our pupils came together to perform for Ms. Finlay as way of saying thanks for all of her hard work in making DTA what it is today. Pupils worked really hard to show their appreciation and we are so proud of them. Performances included: poetry readings, singing, piano and guitar playing, speeches from our Head Pupils and a song played by our Samba Band. Senior prefects served food and they all made a really mature and respectful impression. Thank you to all of the pupils involved in the event, we appreciate your hard work and are in awe of your talents! Thank you to those who attended. The hall was full of other Headteachers and representatives from other schools. Thanks to Ms. Collins-Walsh, Ms. Fyfe and Ms. Vercoe and our Estates team for organising a great afternoon. Thank you, as well, to Mellors for the delicious food. Finally, thank you to Year 11 pupil, Shihab, who took lots of photos!



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Coffee Morning

We are eternally grateful for the support given by parents!

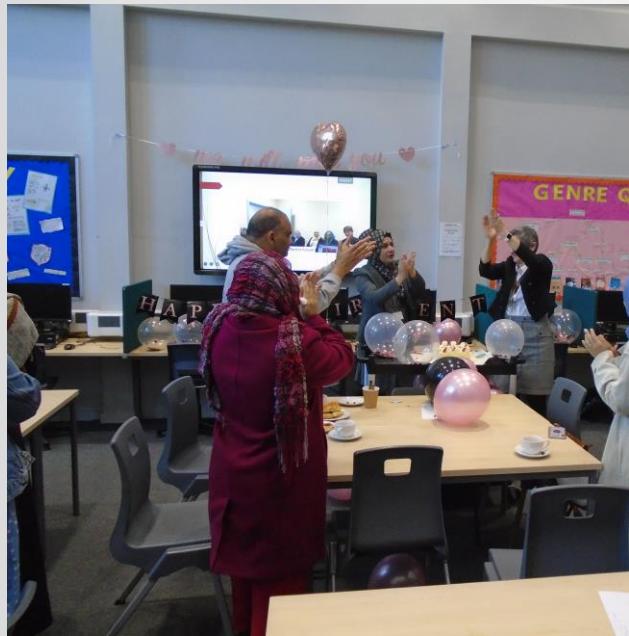
On Friday, Ms. Finlay attended her final parental coffee morning. The Library was absolutely full of parents who wanted to express their gratitude and wish Ms. Finlay a happy retirement. Many of the parents had prepared emotional speeches and brought beautiful flowers as gifts. Parents of Year 11 pupils felt particularly lucky to have gone on a journey with Ms. Finlay as their children and the school have grown! Ms. Finlay gave a speech and read a meaningful poem and there was not a dry eye in the house! Year 10 pupil, Ayaana, and Head Pupil, Allison, both read speeches and poetry in dedication to Ms. Finlay. Thank you to Ms. Qasim, Mr Fogato, Ms. Hussain and Ms. Almuouazen for organising the event. Thank you, as well, to all of the parents who cooked and brought food along with them. It was all delicious! Please enjoy the photos of what was a truly memorable morning at DTA!



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