

Deans Community High School

UPDATE

www.deanscommunityhighschool.com email: wldeans-chs@westlothian.org.uk



The end of term is normally a time when we put together a newsletter, however this will certainly stay firmly in my memory as the most unusual one we've had and I would like to use it to give you what updates I can on the supports we have in place and our plans for the coming months.

Firstly, I would like to thank all parents, carers, students and staff for your commitment to ensuring the wellbeing and ongoing learning of our young people at this extremely difficult time. We have all been surrounded by numerous challenges and the responses of all have highlighted the strong community spirit that we have here at Deans.

We are currently looking at how best to continue with home learning for however long the period of self-isolation lasts and are keen to do this in a way that allows students to progress whilst being realistic about their ability to do so from home. Further information on this will come to you after the Easter break.

With regards to exams for our senior phase students, as you know these have been cancelled for the first time in the history of the Scottish education system. The SQA released a statement to schools last night with further information around all aspects of the 2020 certification and we will now be working closely with our colleagues at West Lothian Council and the SQA to ensure that we follow the guidance given. I know that you and your children will have many questions around this and I would ask that you give us some time to digest the information that we too have just received and ensure that any action we take is correct. We will issue further information after the Easter break. In the meantime, you may find some of the answers you seek on the SQA's website:

https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/020420-SQA-NQ2020-Parent-Carer-covid-19-FAQ.pdf

Whilst learning is the main purpose of students attending school, the current situation has brought wellbeing to the forefront for all of us. Support staff have continued to work with students over the past couple of weeks, both through direct contact via phone calls etc and by ensuring that information on how to cope with the emotional anxiety they may face, is readily available to them. Our website contains a wealth of information on techniques and apps that can be used, people to contact and even a mindfulness session that has been put together by one of our teachers who has been trained in this.

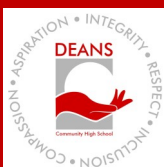
Further information on supports available to you and your family can be found on West Lothian's website: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Normally at this time we would be stressing to senior students the importance of continuing to study and work hard over the holiday period. This year, I believe it would be in the best interests of all students, from S1 to S6, to take the two weeks to try to relax and adjust to the new circumstances we are now all in rather than focusing on schoolwork and studying. When the holiday ends, students should log back in to their timetabled classes, ready to continue with their learning.

If you are looking for some indoor activities for your child, a range of free fiction and non-fiction ebooks can be found on Project Gutenberg, Internet Archive. In addition, Smashwords have 80,000 ebooks available and goodreads have ebooks that can be downloaded on to iba (Apple iBooks), .azw (Amazon Kindle), EPUB and PDF.

On behalf of all of the staff at Deans, I hope that you and your families stay safe and well during this time.

Pauline Allison
Head Teacher



As normal our website - www.deanscommunityhighschool.com - contains information updates for students and parents/carers. Have a look in our News items and the Information sections in Student Zone & Parent/carer Zone. Our Health & Wellbeing section has been updated with information and resources.

