



I hope that you and your family managed to have a good Easter break and remain safe and well. Since 'coming back' to the virtual school this week, students have been continuing to follow the previous timetable from home and we are now ready to begin the next stage of learning. Our hope is that this will keep engagement levels high and help students to remain motivated.

You should now have received a letter from me detailing how we are approaching this next stage. I would ask that you continue to encourage your child to engage with this as best they can, however I do appreciate that each household will have a very different set of circumstances that they are having to deal with. Whilst the learning plan we have created gives some structure, we appreciate that a degree of flexibility is required for many young people and should you have any concerns around these, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House, Head of Year or simply email the school mailbox.

Teachers and students at Deans have continued to work incredibly well together. The creativity on both accounts in making the most of the learning tools around them and turning the current unusual circumstances into positive learning experiences have been impressive and the examples below are just a sample of what has been taking place.

Mr Dibdin from the Home Economics department has been videoing cooking lessons from his kitchen at home, including him singing the happy birthday song as he washes his hands. So no excuses for your child not helping you out in the kitchen!

In S3 biology the students have been learning about human impact on the environment, including working on a 'biome in a box' project in which the students construct their own biome. They incorporated this into their daily outdoor exercise, taking photos of the plant life around them and explaining their findings to one another.

In Modern Languages, S2 German students joined in with students from other schools to compete in an inter-schools Kahoot competition whilst Higher students used news articles from Germany to research the impact of the Corona Virus.

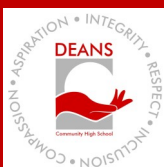
In English, some S1 classes have been using Audible Stories and Nearpod to teach class novels. They've listened to a chapter and then completed tasks in the Nearpod lesson - some are open-ended written answers, some are quizzes and some are collaborative "Post-It notes" where they can all see each others' answers.

Students in PE have been set daily challenges on their Teams pages and on social media, helping to keep activity levels and motivation high, with the staff demonstrating their own skills (some stronger than others!). Some students have been doing their own fitness sessions from home and sending in their key stats such as heart rate, duration and intensity.

Students complete an online Form whenever they do exercise to tell us what they have been up to. These Forms have shown the impact of exercise on mental and emotional wellbeing as well as the physical benefits of staying active as students rate their mood out of 5 before and after exercise.

As we end our third home learning week, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Pauline Allison  
Head Teacher



As normal our website - [www.deanscommunityhighschool.com](http://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.

