



DEER PARK

newsletter

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2024

ISSUE 13

HEADTEACHER'S HELLO!



THE TIME HAS FLOWN BY SINCE COMING BACK FROM THE EASTER BREAK. AS EVER THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN FULLY ENGAGED IN THE LIFE OF THE SCHOOL AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY READING ABOUT IT IN THIS VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER.

IT WAS LOVELY TO OVERHEAR SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE YEAR 7 STUDENTS AS I WANDERED THE SCHOOL LAST NIGHT DURING PARENTS' EVENING. THEY HAVE SETTLED SO WELL INTO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY - AS PARENTS YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF THEM.

A BIG WELCOME TO MRS LEWINGTON WHO JOINS US IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT. MRS LEWINGTON IS A FANTASTIC ENGLISH TEACHER WHO I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH PREVIOUSLY.

I WISH YOU ALL A (HOPEFULLY) SUNNY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND WHEN IT ARRIVES AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

MR JONES

MEET MRS LEWINGTON



Hello, I'm Mrs Lewington. I have just been appointed English Teacher at Deer Park. I have worked in a number of local Hampshire schools over the years as an English Teacher and Head of Year. I am so excited to begin working with the children at Deer Park and hope that I can inspire a love of my subject among the pupils. I have had a wonderful first week getting to know the children and staff.

I have two sons of my own and at weekends can mainly be found on the sidelines of a football or rugby pitch. I am also a big Saints fan (I don't have a great deal of choice) and often go and watch the games at St Marys! Any spare time I have would be spent curled up reading a good book with a cup of tea, although this is very rare.

I am super excited to join the Deer Park community and look forward to working amongst the children, staff and families.

YEAR 7

Welcome back Team 2028 - I hope that you had a wonderful Easter break! Can you believe that this is our final term in Year 7?!

This Thursday and next is Year 7 parents evening - I can see that lots of you have already signed up for appointments with your teachers. If you haven't, it's not too late!

Please follow the link provided by our reception team to snap up any remaining appointment times. Parents' evening will be the opportunity for you all to listen to the amazing feedback your teachers have about you in their lessons - staff are already telling me how excited they are to share how much progress you have made this academic year. You continue to show the rest of the Deer Park community just how incredible you all are - long may this continue!

Kind wishes,
Mrs Wilson

YEAR 8

A warm welcome back to you all after the Easter Holiday. Year 8 have started back well in their final term as Key Stage 3 students, and continue to work hard to achieve their end of year targets.

This week in assembly and tutor time, the cohort completed activities to celebrate Earth Day, which occurs every year on 22nd April. This year's theme is 'Planet vs Plastics - encouraging governments, organisations and individuals to reduce plastic production by 60% by 2040. The students were given the opportunity to analyse the issues with plastics, particularly air pollution and microplastics in the ocean, and look at ways to minimise their use of single use plastics, whether that be using reusable bags, bamboo toothbrushes or refillable water bottles. It would be fantastic to see all of Year 8 with a reusable water bottle, rather than a plastic one, as we go into the warmer summer months. We can all do our bit!

Thanks,
Mr Gregory

YEAR 9


It's been great to welcome the year group back following the Easter break, ready for the final term of Year 9. We ended the Spring term with Parents Evening, and a chance for you and your child to speak with subject teachers about the progress that has been made this far, and areas for improvement - the Summer term is a great place for students to start putting these targets in action. Year 9 exams are approaching in the next few weeks, and this will be another chance to see where progress has been made. We recently had Mrs Dixon in assembly to explain the exam progress to the year group, and give tips on how to revise and prepare effectively for the exams. You can find out how you can support your child with the exam process below.

Kind regards,
Mr Smith

YEAR 9 EXAMS

Following the previous Exam Support Session for parents, here are the links and slides for any parents that couldn't make it. [Exam Support](#) You can find the timetable for all students next week below, students have now received their individual timetable for the exams and complete their revision study sessions for the exams.

*If an exam runs into the next period students will go to their normal lesson once the exam is finished


Deer Park School

	Monday 29 April	Tuesday 30 April	Wednesday 1 May	Thursday 2 May	Friday 3 May
P1	Maths Non-Calculator 60 minutes	Normal lessons	History Paper 1 60 minutes	English Paper 1 90 minutes	Normal lessons
P2	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	*Normal lessons	Normal lessons
Break					
P3	Geography Paper 1 70 minutes	Maths Calculator Paper 1 60 minutes	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	Science Paper 1 75 minutes
P4	*Normal lessons	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	*Normal lessons
Break					
P5	Normal lessons	Normal lessons	Maths Calculator Paper 2 60 minutes	Normal lessons	Normal lessons

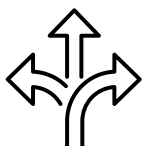
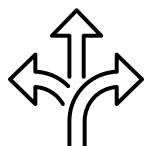
Young minds have some excellent resources in helping students stay mentally healthy during exams. Please find the link [here](#)

YEAR 8 PATHWAYS

Thank you for your support with all of the children choosing their preferred pathways last half term. This week you have received a letter confirming the choices that students have made, please can we ask you to check these carefully and let us know if any of these choices are incorrect. You will receive an email home towards the end of half term to confirm your child's pathway

As previously communicated we may not be able to offer all students all of their preferred choices as listed above. If this is the case we will endeavour to offer them their reserve choice instead. If we are unable to offer your child all of their choices we will contact you directly before half term.

Please see our frequently asked questions document that explains this process in more detail [here](#).





SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION FOR LIFE

This half term we are revisiting the theme of 'Relationships'. This builds upon the previous units the students completed in the 'Relationships' theme that took place in the Autumn 2 half term.

All Year groups - Tutor Time

Students will be looking at a variety of whole school and national events that link into the theme of Relationships. These include:

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Voting for the whole school Rights Respecting Charter

Revision Skills (year 9)

World Earth Day

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Charity

Protected Characteristics

Please see below for a brief outline of what each year group will be studying in their Education for Life lessons this half term:

YR 7 CURRENT LEARNING

Building Relationships

This unit gives students the opportunity to explore the key features of a healthy relationship. Students will cover issues relating to forming strong relationships. We will be exploring what qualities we look for in a friend and what makes a successful friendship. We will then identify what makes a successful team and how to put teamwork into practice.

Within this unit, we also look at inappropriate behaviours and language both in face to situations and online and what the law says about these. We equip students with techniques and skills to deal with peer pressure and signpost where they can get further help if required. We also look at the value and importance of celebrating differences and allow students the chance to explore their 'true selfie'

YR 8 CURRENT LEARNING

Identity and Relationships

This unit explores some of the key terminology linked to sexuality and gender identity. It reminds students that at Deer Park, as a rights respecting school, inappropriate comments related to these will not be tolerated and allows students an opportunity to understand why. We also look at consent and what this means in practice with a focus on dealing with some of the pressures young people face including online. The unit also begins a small part of the statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) framework by introducing students to what contraception is.

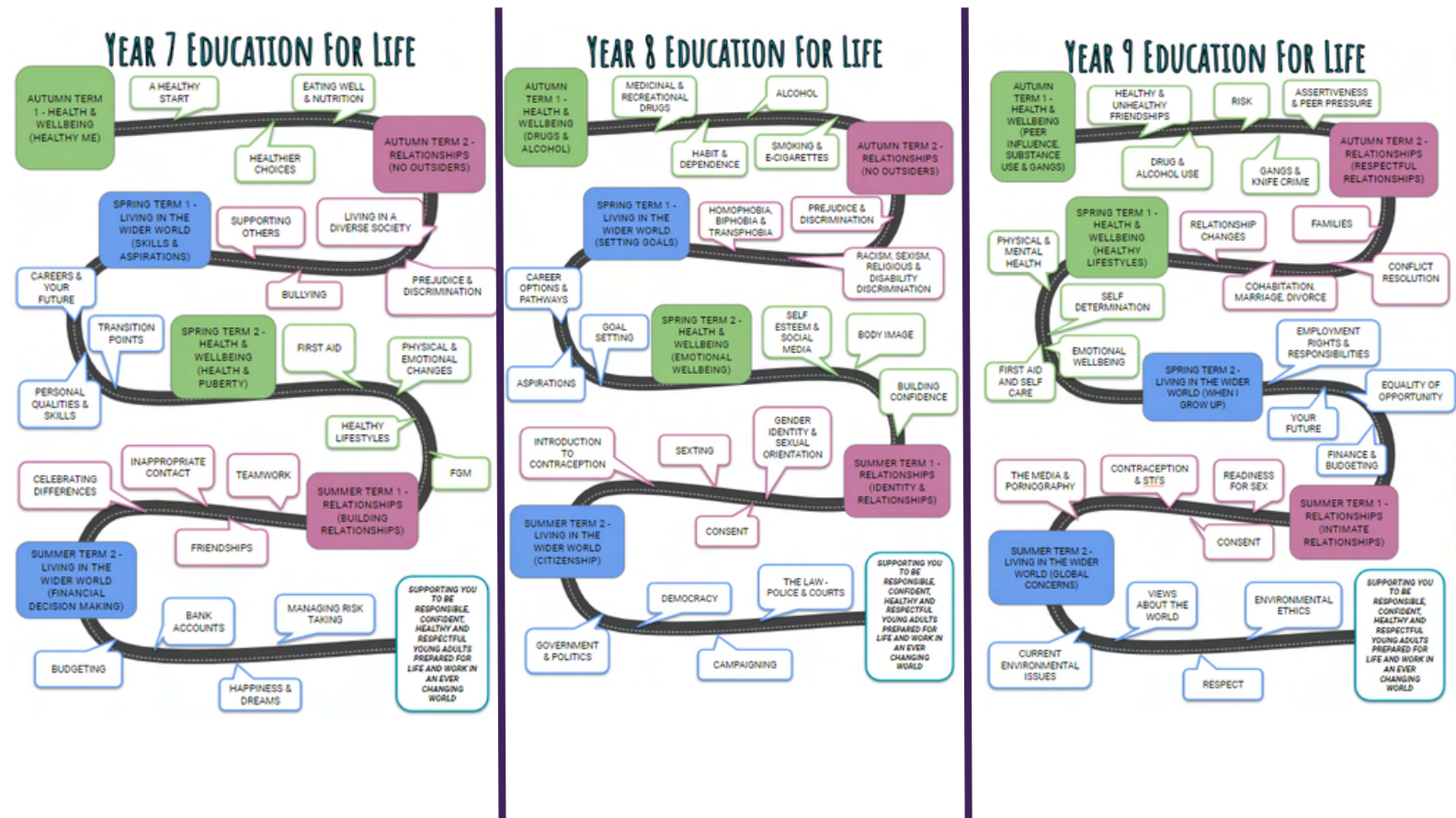
SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION FOR LIFE

YR 9 CURRENT LEARNING Intimate Relationships

This unit is aimed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need in order to make healthy and safe choices regarding sex and relationships and is a part of the statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) framework. Students will explore the portrayal of sex and relationships in the media as well as issues relating to body image, sexting and pornography. They will study the meaning of consent in detail including the right to withdraw consent, the law and how to avoid assumptions relating to consent. They will also gain knowledge and understanding of different types of contraception along with any positives and negatives of each. Finally, they will explore STIs, how to protect themselves and how to get tested.

More details about the whole curriculum and how it aligns with the RSE framework can be found by watching this [video](#).

Further information about the RSE curriculum is also available on the [Department for Education website](#). The School RSE policy can be found [here](#)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UPDATE

FLAG FOOTBALL |

Our external guest coaches from Solent university will continue to deliver flag football sessions on Wednesday. We are hopeful to play our first ever flag football match against an opposition school in May.

Cricket Teams |

Our U13 and U15 teams have cup matches in the next three weeks. Training on Monday 15th April was well attended by our current and new players within year 7. The cricket nets are available for use every Monday after school for our hardball players to gain valuable preparation before matches.

GCSE PE |

Students will be beginning to gather evidence to support practical scores towards year 11 assessments. Thank you to those already submitting evidence for Golf. This term athletics outside will look to test their speed and endurance on the track. Within classroom learning students will study the components of fitness. Check out the quick fire quiz below;

Quick fire questions to support your child's learning

- 1 Name a component of fitness beginning with A
- 2 Name a component of fitness beginning with B
- 3 Name a component of fitness beginning with C

Thanks for reading
Mr Hughes and Miss Andrews

Summer Term Sports Clubs 3-4pm
w/c Monday 15th April

Monday	Tennis - JEM Tennis Club (external 12 sessions - £24) Cricket - Mr Hughes/ & Mr Dart
Tuesday	Athletics - PE Dept (track) Basketball - Outlet Basketball Club [external booking]
Wednesday	Multi Rounders - Miss Andrews (Grass) Flag Football - Solent University Coaches (Astro)
Thursday	Staff Meetings
Friday	

Care Opportunity Quality

LITERACY AT DEER PARK

Do you struggle to encourage reading at home?

It's not surprising. In 2023, The National Literacy Trust conducted a survey of young people's reading habits. In 2023, only 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they enjoyed reading in their free time.

Despite this, 2 in 5 (40.7%) said that they read comics or graphic novels in their free time at least once a month. Comics are a diverse medium, growing steadily in popularity over recent years, and research highlights the potential for comics to improve comprehension and understanding in learners.

Within the National Literacy Trust study: Key Findings

- Comics were a popular format of reading for children and young people: 2 in 5 (40.3%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they read comics or graphic novels on paper, screen, or both at least once a month.
- Children and young people who read comics were more engaged with reading, regardless of their age:
- Nearly twice as many children and young people who read comics in their free time said that they enjoy reading compared with those who didn't read comics in their free time (58.6% vs. 33.1%).
- More of those who read comics rated themselves as 'very good' or 'good' readers compared with those who didn't read comics (86.0% vs 76.3%).
- More of those who read comics stated that they read something daily in their free time compared with peers who did not read comics (35.7% vs. 22.8%).

These findings highlight the importance of children and young people having access to a diverse range of reading materials, including comics. By advocating for comics as a fun and legitimate reading format, we can continue to inspire a future generation of readers and creators.



Struggling with comics and graphic novels to recommend? Try [this](#)

SUMMER UNIFORM

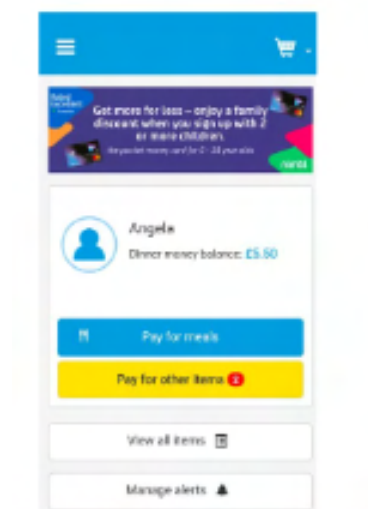
From 1st May 2024 we will be allowing students to wear shorts as part of the summer uniform. As part of this new addition to our uniform guidelines please could we ask for your support in adhering to the following:

- Shorts should be knee length, black and tailored. They can now be obtained from Skoolkit.
- No jogging bottom or sports style shorts to be worn.
- Usual school footwear with black or grey socks.
- Shirts will still need to be tucked into shorts.



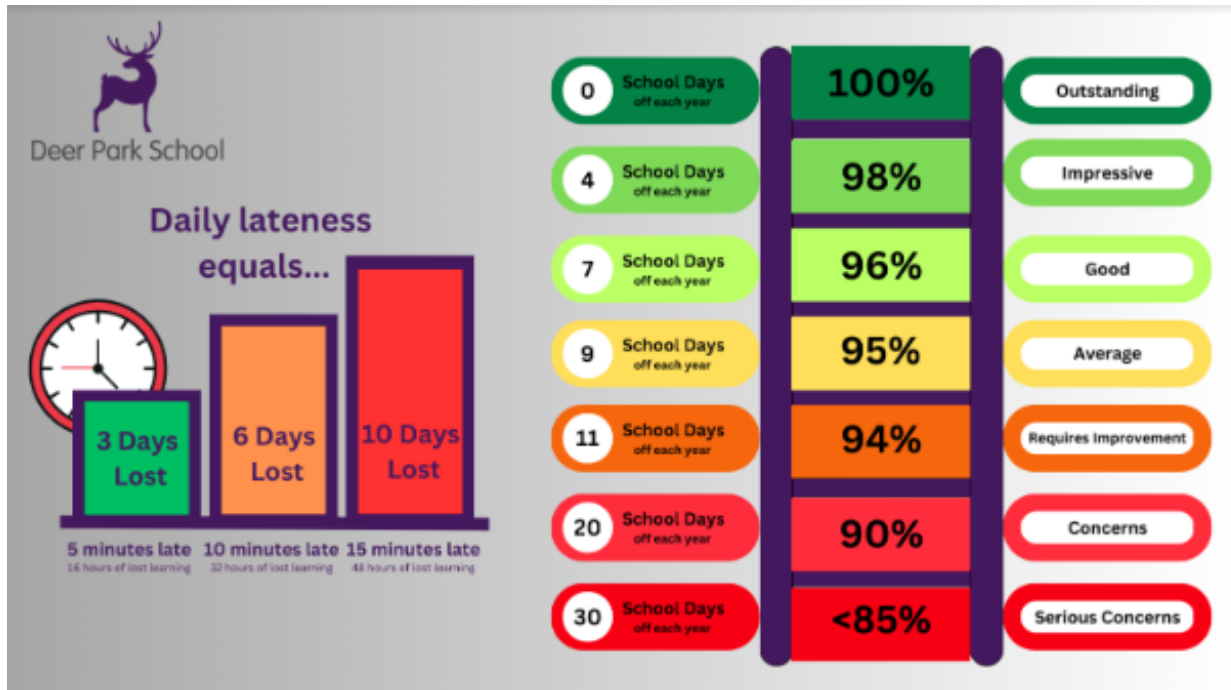
PARENT PAY

Could parents please set up 'Alerts' on your Parent Pay account to notify you when your child's balance is low. This will help reduce the number of telephone calls home to parents. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.



ABSENCES

Please, where possible, could you contact us before 8.30am if your child is unable to attend school. Absences can be recorded via the Insight App or by e-mailing absence@deerparksecondary.org. Alternatively please call the school on 01489 351100 and select option 1 to report your child absent.

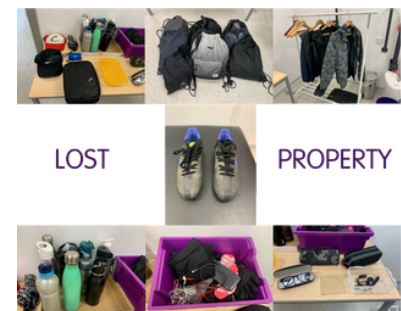


HOLIDAY FORMS

If you need to request an authorised absence from school, for example for holidays, attending family funerals, etc Parents will now need to complete an online google form. This should make it easier for parents to complete. The link for the form is [here](#).

Lost Property

All lost property is kept in the hygiene room (next to first aid). If your child(ren) has lost anything, please ask them to collect anything that belongs to them. Thank you.



UPCOMING DATES



Date	Activity	Year Group
Week Beginning 29th April	Year 9 Exams Start	Year 9
Wednesday 1st May	HPV Vaccinations	Year 8
Thursday 2nd May	Year 7 Parents Evening (second night)	Year 7
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday - school closed	All Years

TERM DATES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

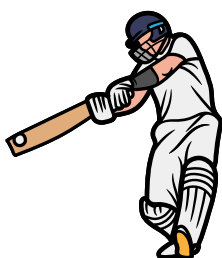
PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO VIEW TERM DATES FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR (2023-2024).



EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

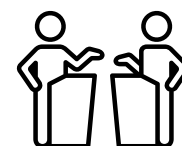
Please find attached next half term's Extra Curricular timetable. Students are still welcome to join any club that they haven't already signed up to even if they have already begun

Summer Term 1



DPS Extra Curricular Timetable - Summer 1 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Break 1	Mindfulness Club (110)	IT Club (101) Birdwatching/wildlife club (007) Maths Drop-in (118) Taylor swift club (115) STEM leaders (successful applicants only) French Year 9 Drop in (105)	Get Active (5H) Year 7 Dominoes (115) Maths Drop-in (118) Science Intervention Drop in (206) Languages Club (106) Week A and B	Get Active (5H) Year 8	Choir* (tutor time) Get Active (5H) Year 9 Puzzle club (118)
Break 2	Ukulele Club (011) Psychology club Year 8/9 (108) Chess Club (115)	Eco Club (109) KS4 French Speaking (105) Week B only STEM leaders (successful applicants only)	Debate Club (year 8/9) Lego Club (115) Year 7 and Year 8	Drama Club (Year 7)	Games Club (115)
After School	STEM Club (204) Tennis - 16M Tennis (booking via parent pay) Cricket (Sports Hall/Field) Mr Hughes (hard ball) Mr Dart (softball) Year 7/ 8/9 Dance club (Dance studio) Self Study club (LRC) NEW model makers club 3-4pm (201) NEW Robot club (successful applicants only) 3-4pm (102)	Athletics PE Dept Rugby Association Club (external booking (paid sessions)) Percussion ensemble (008) NEW Cooking Club (108)	Multi-Rounders Miss Andrews - Field Flag Football (Astro - Solent University) Art Club (203) Books & Biscuits (Year 8/9) 002 Week A (alternate between year 8 / year 9) Self study Club (LRC) Matilda Rehearsals (Choreography - Dance Studio)	Staff meetings Self study club (LRC)	Self study club (LRC)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Do you know this masked man?



You never know who could be sat behind a screen!
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