

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We welcomed back into school last Wednesday our pupils for the second term of the year. We do hope that all pupils and their families had a fantastic Christmas break and wish everyone the very best for 2018.

It is pleasing to note that the pupils quickly got down to work last week and we are already well established in the routine of school for the start of the second week. The mid-term of the year is critical in extending learning in all areas of school and as such, we expect all pupils to settle quickly and make the most of the opportunities that the School continues to provide.

I'm sure the pupils really enjoyed the festive activities that were held in school prior to the Christmas break. I would like to thank all the pupils and staff who were involved in coordinating and participating in the carol services, Christmas dinner, Rewards' afternoons, karaoke and all the other Christmas activities which helped provide the pupils with an opportunity to be involved in festive fun and grasp a fuller understanding of the real values associated with Christmas.



The Christmas Jumper appeal raised over £454.90 for 'Save the Children' and the Year 9 Foodbank Appeal provided the best Secondary School response across Trafford to the South Manchester Foodbank for the homeless in Altrincham. The Sixth Form Christmas Toy Appeal also had over 260 presents delivered to Key 103 for their Mission Christmas Appeal. Thank you to all those who contributed to each of the appeals.



Headteacher Swap

I would like to inform you that between **Tuesday 9th January 2018 and Friday 12th January 2018** the Headteachers of the secondary schools in The Dean Trust will be taking part in a new initiative called 'Headteacher Swap'. This is an opportunity for the Headteachers to spend some time in a different school setting within the Trust and to further develop their professional skills as Headteachers. I am looking forward to spending 4 days at The Lord Derby Academy in Knowsley. My counterpart, Miss Gowan (Headteacher at LDA), will be spending the same 4 days at Ashton. Miss Gowan will work alongside the Ashton Senior Leadership Team, getting to know our wider staff, meeting our pupils and looking at our best practice in School. This initiative will not cause any disruption and during the exchange Ashton on Mersey's Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Mottram, will be in charge of the day to day running of the school.



Attendance and Punctuality

Could I remind parents please of the importance of maximum attendance and punctuality to school? You will be aware that there is a direct correlation between high levels of attendance and punctuality and school achievements and success. Could I please ask for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school every day possible and arrives well in time daily for the first bell at 8:35 am?

Year 11 Mock outcomes

During the last few days before the break, our Year 11 pupils received their mock GCSE results. A number of pupils were clearly disappointed and had failed to put in the necessary preparation prior to the mock exams in late November. All of Year 11 were spoken to about the importance of using part of the Christmas break to catch up with outstanding work and go over class notes from the previous term and I do hope they have taken up this opportunity. The preparation for the summer exams continues in earnest from the start of this term and staff have already begun extra sessions after school to provide all the pupils with the support and guidance they may need. Once again, it is vital for parents to help us in motivating our pupils to stay behind after school and seek out the support which will undoubtedly help them in their aspirations for the summer exams. We will certainly be doing the same at school with them, but really value ongoing parental support. Any success achieved in the summer will be gained from hard work put in during the months between now and May. In an assembly last week, we reassured all Year 11 that they are in the very best place to receive support and it is not too late to make a difference. However, if this is to happen work must begin in earnest now. Parents will have an opportunity at Progress Evening for Year 11 on January 18th to meet subject staff and identify how improvements in individual performance can be made. Could I ask that all parents ensure they take the opportunity to attend this important event. Pupils will be making appointments from next week.

Homework.

This half term there is a particular focus again on homework in school. All pupils have a homework timetable relevant to their year group. Staff have been asked to ensure that when homework is on the timetable that homework is set for that pupil, on that day. Could I ask parents please to continue to speak with their children at home and ensure that they are recording homework in their planners and actually completing the work that is set. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Post 16

The Post 16 Parents Evening for Year 12 and 13 takes place on the 25th January. For students and their parents, this is a really important opportunity to meet subject staff, identify progress made and understand what needs to be done for the remainder of the academic year. We look forward to meeting parents of our students during the evening.

Key Messages from Sixth Form

- Sixth Form is still accepting late applications, please remind students that they can still lodge applications.
- Sixth Form guidance meetings are being set up for the week commencing 22nd January with all applicants.
- The I-Site in Sixth Form can be used after school on Mondays for Year 11 to work and Mrs Brown will be available for supervision and guidance.
- Saturday School will be starting from Saturday 13th January, 9.30-12.00pm in the Sixth Form I-Site. Pupils who wish to attend, to book in at Sixth Form reception with Mrs Jenkinson.

Sporting Update

'A year from now, you may wish you had started today' – Please encourage your children to be part of our team!

PE Extra-curricular highlights:

- Year 7 football team are through to the last 32 teams in the English Schools' Cup after beating Our Lady's 9-2 (Player of the match - Jacob Beaumont-Clark).
- Year 8 Basketball team beat Wellacre 42 – 8 (Player of the match Luke Garner).
- Year 7 Rugby team remain undefeated beating Wellacre 30 – 10 (Player of the match - Dan Welford).
- Year 10/ 11PE leaders completed a Dragons' Den process to bid for £4000 funding to offer alternative clubs afterschool.
- Final session @ Total Ninja seen 66 pupils attending. 107 pupils in total have participated over the past 6 weeks.
- GCSE PE students attended 'Rock Over Climbing' Centre to complete their practical assessments.



What's on?

- Updated Extra Curricular timetable for spring term out now via the website and attached to this letter.
- Keep up to date with our PE Fixtures Calendar. This can be found on the school website under helpful links (<http://aomschool.co.uk/pe-fixtures-results/>).
- Kick starting the New Year with Flowskate Roller Disco on Monday 8th January.
- Snowboarding opportunity alert! New lessons starting 10th January. If pupils are interested in making a snow of themselves, see Miss Cooper for details.
- Oxygen Free Jumping Club starts 17th January. Please ask your child to speak to Mr Doody for a letter with details.
- Inter-form results will be coming soon.



Forthcoming Events



Additional Dates for your diary

- 18th January – Year 11 Progress Evening
- 25th January – Year 12/13 Progress Evening
- 7th February – Year 9 Progress Evening
- 9th February – Close for half term

- 15th March – Year 8 Progress Evening
- 28th March – Year 7 Progress Evening
- 28th March – School closes for Easter (Pupils)
- 29th March – INSET & Close for Easter

We do hope you find the weekly letter informative. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact reception and we will endeavour to deal with them promptly.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Moloney
Headteacher