THE DEAN TRUST
Ashton on Mersey School

Merry Christmas

NEWSLETTER

5th December 2025

Headteacher Message

Mr McConaghie
Headteacher

Thank you to all our parents, carers, and pupils who attended the Year 10 Progress Evening this week. It was a pleasure to welcome families back into school and to hold this event face-to-face once again.

The evening provided an invaluable opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about their child's progress, celebrate achievements, and discuss next steps for the months ahead. We greatly appreciate the time those in attendance took to engage with teachers and support the continued success of our Year 10 pupils.

At The Dean Trust, we are committed to maintaining a safe, respectful and supportive environment for everyone in our school community. To help support this, we have introduced a new Code of Conduct for Parents, Carers and Visitors**,** which outlines the expectations for all adults both on our school site and externally when engaging with our staff and pupils.

We kindly ask parents, carers and visitors to take the time to read this document, which can be found on the school website. Code of Conduct

Thank you for your continued support in helping us work together in the best interests of our children.

Key Dates

- Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th December – Year 7 – 11 Flu Vaccines
- Monday 15th December – Parent workshop on White Working Class 4-5pm
- Thursday 18th December – Year 7 Carol Concert @ The Avenue Church, 5:30pm-6:30pm
- Thursday 18th December – Year 13 Leavers' Celebration Evening
- Friday 19th December – School closes for Christmas, pupils to finish at 12noon.

Year 10 Parents Evening

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers of our Year 10 pupils on Thursday evening for the first Progress Evening of the year. This event was also the first hosted in-person since the pandemic, and staff and visitors commented on the quality of conversations and how positive it was to meet one another.

Feedback taken from parents and carers showed that 100% of families came away with useful information of their child's progress across subjects and with strategies to help support their studies and revision at home. We will use the feedback collated on the format to determine whether future Progress Evenings will remain online or move to in-person.

Please note for your diaries the dates for the remaining year groups' Progress Evenings. Information on the chosen format and how to make bookings will be communicated to parents and carers prior to each event.

Year 11 - 15th January
Year 9 - 29th January
Year 13 - 12th February
Year 12 - 26th February
Year 8 - 12th March
Year 7 - 26th March

Fundraising

Congratulations to Sam in Year 11 on an excellent year in rowing.

He is ending the year by rowing 100km on a rowing machine to raise funds and to support Phoebe's Challenge.

Good luck Sam – we hope you smash your target and are very proud of you.

Fundraising link

Karaoke Fundraiser

Thank you to all of the pupils and staff who attended the Legally Blonde Fundraiser this week. A fantastic £243 was raised and will go towards props and costumes for the show in March.

A special thank you to our fundraising team: Ines Yamato, Ava Kelsall, Corey Newall, Thomas Williams, Catherine Mathew, Rebecca Bryans, Thea Bloss and Noah Morgan.

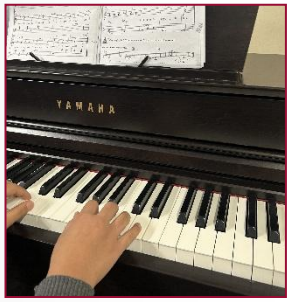
Creative Arts

Singing Group

Our singing group have been hard at work rehearsing for our upcoming Carol Service and performing at the Christmas Markets last week.

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Signing up to peripatetic lessons is quick and easy, you simply need to email your interest directly to Mr Hall, davidhall@aom.trafford.sch.uk. In your email, you should explain what instrument you would like to play – please choose one from the list below – and let us know about any previous experience your child may have had in the past on that instrument, or on other instruments. We can then add you to the payment list, which will appear via MCAS.

The cost for lessons is £40 per half term (£160 for the rest of the year) and you can cancel your lessons by giving two week's notice prior to the end of the half term you would like to finish your lessons.

Instrument list;

Piano	Singing	Acoustic Guitar	Electric Guitar	Clarinet	Saxophone	Trumpet	Drums
Trombone	Flute	French Horn	Tuba	Violin	Viola	Cello	

Art Competition

Students across all year groups are encouraged to enter our Winter Art Competition, simply create a work of art of a winter landscape using the art form of their choice and hand it in to either Miss Forber, Miss Cockayne or Miss Smith in the art department before December 12th. Top three entries will win some fantastic art supplies!

Key Stage 5

Year 12

Our Year 12 students have thrown themselves into 6th Form life this term, embracing wider opportunities and making a positive impact across the school community. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork have been clear to see.

One of the standout achievements has been the fantastic work of the fundraising team. They have contributed to several whole-school events, including the Poppy Appeal in November, where they helped raise both money and awareness among our younger students. Their involvement in the Christmas Markets was equally impressive. From visiting form groups to collect donations, to assisting with the organisation and supporting stalls throughout the evening, their hard work helped ensure the event ran smoothly and successfully.

Our leadership team has also been preparing for the exciting launch of the mentoring programme in January. Student leaders have attended specialised training sessions, equipping them with the skills and confidence they need to support main school students in subjects such as Maths and English. Their dedication to these sessions shows their genuine commitment to helping others.

Year 12 and Y13 students have also been key contributors to the festive atmosphere around the 6th Form. They helped decorate the Christmas tree in the common room and will be involved in promoting Christmas Jumper Day, spreading cheer while supporting good causes.

With more opportunities on the horizon, we are incredibly proud of our Year 12 students and the mature, community-minded approach they have shown throughout the term. Their efforts have truly helped make this a memorable start to the year.

Mr Norton
Head of Year 13

Mrs Crowder
Assistant Headteacher ,
Key Stage 5

Miss Connolly
Head of Year 12

Key Stage 5

Christmas Decorations

Poppy Appeal

Student Leadership training

Year 13

Year 13 students have been completing their UCAS applications during form time this half term. Students should all now have completed their UCAS form, including their personal statements. Our Sixth form team will now review all forms and personal statements before collating subject references, ready for all forms to be submitted before we break for Christmas. Quite a few students have already submitted their applications and are already starting to receive offers from their chosen Universities.

Apprenticeships and Careers

This term has been focussed on supporting Year 13 students with their post 18 options, helping students to explore their career ideas in-depth and identify their preferred path beyond sixth form in order to achieve their goals, whether this be to pursue university, an apprenticeship, employment or undertake a gap year.

All Year 13 students are invited to a minimum of one careers appointment, with some students having had more than one appointment in order to finalise their next-steps, perfect their UCAS personal statements, CVs and Cover Letters and to ensure that students are equipped with the tools and resources they require to progress their career in a positive direction.

All students in Year 12 and Year 13 are able to keep up to date with the latest Apprenticeships, Higher Education and Careers events via the Careers Bulletin which is available via the Sixth Form Student Announcements page on Google Classroom.

Sixth Form Applications for September 2026

Applications are open for admission to Sixth form in September 2026. The deadline for applications is Thursday 18th December. We were fully subscribed for the last two years and competition for places this year is already extremely high.

Please click on the link below to access the short online internal application form:
https://forms.gle/KSchc5EsiYpA67VU8

Please scan the QR code for course information.

Star of the week

Well done to all pupils who received star of the week this week, each nomination has been linked to one of our school values.

Integrity

Jamie Chilton, 9SUS – Nominated by Mr Hall for continued excellence in his commitment to getting the most out of all Drama lessons each and every week.

Oliver Barlow, 11LAR - Nominated by Mr Bott for taking full responsibility for his learning by showing commitment to staying behind to improve his coursework for iMedia. Great work, Oliver!

Resilience

Ethan Flitcroft 9JEF – for consistent effort in his RE lessons this term.

Compassion

Georgia Barrett, 7ELL - Nominated by Mrs Mazurek for always being keen to help other pupils in Computer Science class and always does this with a smile on her face and kindness!

Respect

Tina Mustafa, 13MAB - Nominated by Mr Bott for high standards with her homework. Tina's revision Is carefully organised, clear and beautifully present. Excellent effort!

Star of the week

Ambition

Lily Earle, 10JED - Nominated by Mr Hall for an outstanding monologue performance in lesson this week.

Lottie Mae Lakin-Hall, 7DMG - Nominated by Mrs Maguire for excellent work in Maths.

Jack Pacitto, 11KRK – Nominated by Mr Kelly for excellent attitude to learning. Contributed to Business lessons and answered all assessment questions to a high standard.

George Martin, 10BNF - Nominated by Mrs Maguire for excellent work in Maths.

Gabby Flesk, 9IAT – Nominated by Mrs Bruce for playing up a year in Netball and contribution greatly to the Year 1- performance VS Sale Grammar.

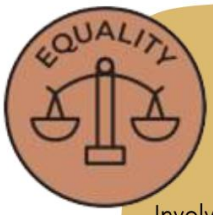
Tanish Manikonda, 13SUE - Nominated by Mrs Maguire for excellent work in Maths.

Lucia Galvin, 10MAR - Nominated by Mr Green for a extremely strong performance in he end of topic tests in Business and always working hard in lessons.

Sarah Zhou, 9MEF - Nominated by Ms Lockwood for a fantastic speech written in English lesson on mental health.

Lucy Robertson, 11SAH – for her hard work on RO58 coursework and her RO57 exam unit in Child Development lessons.

Culture Challenge



Equality

Involvement in a form culture calendar assembly

Enrichment points for an extra-curricular activity linked to promoting Equality

Star of the week or a Head of Year reward for Equality

Compassion

Recognition from HOY/PSM for supporting a friend in a time of need

Positive Bromcom points for 'social progress'

Star of the week, a praise postcard or a Head of Year reward for 'Compassion'

Integrity

Volunteer for a leadership role in school

Bromcom points for 'positive contribution'

Bromcom points for 'excellent homework'

Star of the week, a praise postcard or a Head of Year reward for 'Integrity'

Ambition

Subject award on Bromcom

Bromcom points for 'good academic progress'

Bromcom points for 'hardworking'

Bromcom points for 'committed or outstanding behaviour for progress

Star of the week, a praise postcard or a Head of Year reward for 'Ambition'

Respect

Bromcom points for 'being respectful'

Bromcom points for 'being helpful'

Star of the week, a praise postcard or a Head of Year reward for Respect

Resilience

Bromcom points for '100% attendance'

Enrichment points for sustained attendance at an extra-curricular activity

Star of the week, a praise postcard or a Head of Year reward for 'resilience'