

9th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Thank you**

Thank you for all your support this term, be it ensuring your child is here on time (and this has improved), talking to them about their work, keeping us informed of issues that may be affecting them or bringing in forgotten items! We are a team and we do appreciate your input into the education and safety of your child whilst here at DSTC.

### **Bench**

I mentioned to you prior to Christmas that a well respected Colleague, Stephen Patt, died on 12 December 2021. Stephen was always astounded by the girls plonking themselves down on the floor at break and lunch time and even spent some of his budget on buying them picnic blankets one year. His widow and the staff here at DSTC feel it would be a fitting tribute to him to raise money for a bench.

We have set up a page for this and welcome donations:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dstcspatt?utm\\_term=G4QkDMBw9](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dstcspatt?utm_term=G4QkDMBw9)

### **Textile donations**

Donations for our LMB textile containers are also welcome as we will use the money this provides to buy outdoor canopies for some of the playgrounds. This is not just a money making exercise, every year the British public throw away over a million tonnes of textiles, the vast majority of which could be reused or recycled. Nearly two million pairs of shoes are thrown out each week that could be worn by someone else. LMB offers an environmentally friendly alternative to this wastage. By depositing your textiles into a LMB recycling bank your clothes, shoes and textiles will receive a second lease of life instead of being sent to the dump. LMB reuses and recycles virtually every kind of textile, from t-shirts to saris to school uniforms, shoes, trainers, football kits, hats, belts, jackets. The list is endless. And if you have any household textiles to donate such as towels, bed sheets or curtains, these can also be reused. Please note that duvets and pillows are NOT accepted.

### **Food Forest and Eco Centre update**

Following this theme of environmentally friendly activities, we are delighted with the fantastic response to the Aviva venture to raise money for our eco centre and food forest. We aimed to raise £5,000 and raised over £6,000. In addition Aviva awarded us a further £10,000 as they liked the project so much. We are now working in the background to organise the first steps to making this project a reality and will keep you informed as things progress.

### Phone numbers

To ensure we keep you up to date and can reach you in an emergency, please ensure we have your most recent details if you have changed a mobile phone number or moved. The DfE recommends that schools hold at least 2 phone numbers. If you are unsure if you have already notified us please don't worry about contacting us again, we are happy to check.

### Health Care Plans

To be able to fully support your children, if students have a change in diagnosis then please do contact their Pastoral Leader who will be able to update their child's Health Care Plan.

- [yvonne.harrison@dstc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:yvonne.harrison@dstc.kent.sch.uk) - Year 7 & 8
- [lorna.sutton@dstc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:lorna.sutton@dstc.kent.sch.uk) - Year 9 & 10
- [Esther.harvey@dstc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Esther.harvey@dstc.kent.sch.uk) - Year 11, 12 & 13

### Year 9 Option process

There is a clear, tried and tested procedure for this and the letter sent by Mr Archer today explains in detail the process for both parents and students. Please note the deadline of 25th March 2022. It is not a case of first come first served but those that are late may not be given their top choices. If nearer the deadline there are issues around handing in the form then please contact Mrs Jones on email address [Maria.jones@dstc.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Maria.jones@dstc.kent.sch.uk)

### Car Park protocol

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the car park protocol at DSTC.

When you come onto site the speed limit is 5 mile per hour. Please be mindful of this especially when there are lots of students walking at the start and end of the day. This can often be a frenetic time and requires everyone's care and attention.

Parents and carers are able to access the visitor parking when either dropping off or picking up. This area is clearly marked on either side of the entrance to the top of the hill as it bears round right. The border of this is marked in red letters on the roadway stating 'Staff Parking Only'. Just to the left hand side, at the top end of the visitors parking is a red hatched turning area for your use so you do not have to go into the staff parking area to do this.

Whilst we do have accessible parking bays located within the staff parking area these spaces are designated for students with additional physical needs and require a parking permit issued by DSTC and displayed in your screen to park there. These can be obtained from your pastoral leaders if required. This can be either for a temporary and time specified period of time i.e. for a significant leg injury or for a permanent condition that is deemed appropriate under your Health Care Plan.

Tel: 01322 224309  
Email: Office@dstc.kent.sch.uk  
www.dstc.kent.sch.uk



Heath Lane  
Dartford  
Kent  
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I do understand that some of the parents or carers have a blue badge in their own right but we can not offer this facility for your use as we are very limited on spaces which are needed every day for designated students.

Please note that a number of students have commented to us that car engines are being left on whilst parents sit and wait for their children. They are concerned about the environment and I commend them for bringing it to our attention, we are therefore asking if you could turn them off whilst on site and stationary.

### **Uniforms including lanyards**

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform ready for their return and this includes their lanyards which seems to be an issue for those wearing a PE kit to school. We will consider instigating the full uniform and students changing if we cannot get them to wear the correct Sport kit AND lanyard.

### **Return to school**

As I said at the start, punctuality has improved but it is not yet solved. To this end I would like all students on site by 8.35am so they have time to walk to the student entrance and get to lessons before they start promptly at 8.40am.

I do hope you all enjoy your half term break and I look forward to seeing the students on Monday the 21st February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'A' and 'D'.

Mrs Anne Davis  
Principal



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on your child's school



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