

2 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

End of Autumn Term Arrangements

It has been a busy and successful first term with much to be proud of. Please read our termly newsletter coming out before the end of term to learn more about our young people's experiences and achievements over the course of the term.

Festive Lunch: Wednesday 18 December

DSTC will be holding their festive lunch on Wednesday 18 December. This is a lovely way for students to celebrate the festive season with friends and staff.

Tickets are now available to purchase from the canteen at a cost of £3.00. Tickets **MUST be bought in advance**. Students must keep their ticket safe and bring it to lunch on the day. The lunch will consist of:

- *Roast British Turkey with savouring stuffing & pigs in blankets;
or
Brie, cranberry festive filo baskets with thyme gravy (v)*
- *All will be served with crispy roast potatoes, honey roast parsnips, brussels sprouts, fresh glazed carrots and garden peas*

Please note that there will be a very limited amount of other food available on the day from the pod.

Any student claiming free school meals (FSM) will automatically be able to have a Christmas Dinner. Ms Smith will be contacting all students to give them their ticket. If you have any queries about this, please contact office@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Last Day of Term: Friday 20 December

As the term draws to a close I would like to inform you of our end of term arrangements, especially the end of the school day on **Friday 20 December** whereby the **school will close at 12pm**.

In the spirit of the festive season, students are invited to wear non-school uniform and we encourage students to wear festive themed jumpers or jumpers in traditional colours. Students wishing to wear non-uniform will be asked to make a £1 donation to the NSPCC to support our London Marathon fundraising.

Lessons and learning will still take place across the morning therefore all students are expected to arrive at school with the appropriate equipment.

Please note there will be no lunch service but there will be a normal break service and all students in receipt of a free school meal will be given a packed lunch.

Canteen fobs: please note all food in the canteen should be purchased using your child's personal fob which is linked to your parent pay lunch money account. If your child has lost their fob please direct them to the canteen staff for a replacement, this will cost £5 and will be deducted from your parent pay account. If they arrive at the pay point without a fob they will be directed to the back of the queue. The reason for this is to minimise the impact of entering manual details on the queuing system and to enable us to ensure everyone has lunch with their time slot. If you have difficulty in replacing a fob please contact the school office on Office@dstc.kent.sch.uk, any faulty fobs will be replaced free of charge.

Parking: a reminder to please be considerate to local residents when dropping or collecting your daughter/son from school. Unfortunately we do have regular complaints of anti social parking, parents have been observed parking across private driveways and on the zig-zags lines outside of the school entrance and also using the school entrance as a turning circle, this is both a health and safety hazard for our students and inconvenient for our local homeowners. Please ensure you park respectfully.

Contact with staff during the school day: if you have a **non urgent** matter that you wish to raise with any member of the Pastoral Team, please email them in the first instance, if you prefer a face to face meeting, please email them to book an appointment. Whilst we will always be on hand in an emergency situation, it will not always be possible to speak to a staff member on an ad hoc basis as they are often supporting other students or teaching.

Yr 7 Pastoral Lead - bkeena@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Yr 8 & 9 Pastoral Lead - dmith@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Yr 10 & 11 Pastoral Lead - lsutton@dstc.kent.sch.uk

P16 Pastoral Lead - eharvey@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Yr 7 Head of Year - fpalmer@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Yr 8 & 9 Head of Year - jdix@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Yr 10 & 11 Head of Year - msheen@dstc.kent.sch.uk

P16 Head of Year - ijewere@dstc.kent.sch.uk

The school will close from 12pm on Friday 20 December 2024 and open on Monday 6 January 2025 at 8.40am. If your child needs anything from school they must bring it home in advance of the last day.

If you need any additional support during the holiday please access the links below to be aware of the services available:

- <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/adult-social-care/paying-for-care/benefits/home-essentials-in-a-crisis>
- <https://livewellkent.org.uk/community-services/>
- Kids Eat Free updates: <https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all families for their support over the Autumn Term and to wish you all a happy and healthy break.

I look forward to welcoming all students and staff back to school in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Joanne Sangster
Principal