

July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the academic year draws to a close, I wanted to write to you to outline arrangements for next year and update you on some of the things that have been happening over the past 12 months.

End of term arrangements

School will close at 12.00 on Friday 23rd July, the canteen will be open for anyone who would like a lunch from 12.00 – 12.30.

End of term examinations

Students undertook examinations in the summer term and the results show that despite the significant disruption caused by Covid, academic progress remains strong. As part of a large trust, we can benchmark performance against the other 11,391 students in the trust and I am happy to report that in every year group and in every subject, performance is at least at and in many cases above, the trust average. Current year 10 students have performed particularly well and have matched the performance at this stage of the Year 10 of 2017, this year group went on to be number one for progress made in similar schools in the entire country. Clearly, this is a very promising start for them as they move into their final year. Year 11 students also performed well, and we are optimistic about their final results in August. These scores are of course a tribute to the students themselves, but also to the parents and staff who have supported them so well during a very difficult two years.

Student numbers and staffing changes

When I started at De Lacy in January 2017, there were only 88 students in year 11. We were not the school of choice and local students did not all attend their local school. Since then, our numbers have soared. This year we will be welcoming 180 students in year 7. In September 2021, we will be larger by 240 students than we were in September 2017.

Such large growth requires more staff and as a result several new staff will join us in September. These include:

Miss Schofield in History, Miss Hoban and Mr Taylor in Maths, Miss Speck in Design and Technology.

I will be taking up a slightly different role across other schools in September and whilst I will remain Principal, I will not be in the Academy 2 days per week. As a result, Mrs O'Brien has been promoted to Vice Principal and she and Mr Pritchard will be Acting Principals in my absence.

Communication Protocols

With our numbers increasing so rapidly, it is important that you know who to contact should you have a concern. The table below shows where any questions or concerns should be directed and where our reception staff will direct them should they arise.

Point of contact	Pastoral concern	Subject concern
1 st	Form Tutor	Subject Teacher
2 nd	Learning Manager	Head of Faculty
3 rd	Assistant Principal	Assistant Principal
4 th	Vice Principal	Vice Principal
5 th	Principal	Principal

The school day from September

Happily, we will return to normal rooms and timings in September.

Students must be inside the school grounds no later than 8.20a.m. every day or they will be given a C4 detention. Punctuality is a skill necessary in every job and something that we learn at school.

School will finish for Years 7-10 at 2.30p.m. each day. Year 11 will finish at 3.15p.m. each day to enable them to catch up on the work missed in Y9 and 10 that they will need in their examinations. They will however finish at 2.30p.m. on Tuesdays to allow for staff training.

Year Group	Start time	End Time	Entry/Exit gate
7	8.20	2.30	Side gate
8	8.20	2.30	Side gate
9	8.20	2.30	Front gate
10	8.20	2.30	Front gate
11	8.20	3.15 (2.30 on Tuesdays)	Front gate

Uniform

Mrs O'Brien has written to you already giving a full description of uniform expectations. These are also available in full on the website. I wanted to repeat a few key points below to ensure absolute clarity for September. The whole point of a uniform, whether you are a school pupil or whether you work in a particular setting such as for an airline or in a restaurant, is to promote a sense of belonging and sameness. In a school setting, this projects a smart image and also allows students who can not afford the latest trainers, nails, belts and the like not to feel self-conscious about it. As soon as you allow one pupil to modify their uniform, even if only slightly, this is undone. The issues that are most common are given in the list below:

- No artificial nails of any kind are allowed, be they gel, acrylic or any other type. Nail varnish will also need to be removed before the school day.
- No piercings of any kind should be worn. It is not acceptable for students to wear 'clear' studs.
- Trousers and skirts must be Delta trousers or skirts.

- Only plain belt belts are acceptable; a belt should not be worn with a school skirt.
- Year 11 must wear a blue shirt. All other students a Delta white shirt.
- Students must not wear socks of any kind when wearing a skirt. Tights must be worn.
- Students should not wear boots. Shoes must be plain, black and polishable. They should not look like trainers or have a sporting logo.

Equipment

Students are responsible for bringing a pencil case and planner to school. Pencil cases need a pen, pencil, ruler green and purple pens as a minimum. All students must have a bag. Y7-9 must have a Delta bag and will be given a C4 detention if they do not bring these items. Y10 and 11 must also have a bag, however they may bring their own as long as they are plain, can be fastened and are large enough to hold an A4 size folder.

First Day back

A separate letter will be sent to you regarding covid testing before students return to the Academy in September. This will confirm the exact time that your child should arrive and take a covid test before they start a day or 2 later. A summary version is shown below.

Year Group	Date of test	Date and time of first day back
7	Monday 6 th September	Tuesday 7 th September 9:45 am
8	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September 8.20 am
9	Wednesday 8 th September	Thursday 9 th September 8.20 am
10	Tuesday 7 th September	Wednesday 8 th September 8.20 am
11	Monday 6 th September	Wednesday 8 th September 8.20 am

I wish you and your families a happy, restful and safe summer and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours faithfully,



Chris McCall
Associate Executive Principal