DEAN TRUST Ardwick

NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are off to a very positive start, with the majority of our pupils continuing to show dedication to their education by attending school on time and engaging fully in their learning. Our staff have been focused on making 2026 a successful year by supporting pupils to develop habits that enable achievement.

I am proud to announce that we have been been recognised as a high performing school and has been asked to work with the Department for Education as a Lead School for behaviour and attendance as part of the Behaviour Hubs programme.

A key message we are sharing with our pupils this term is the importance of committing to be the best they can be. We are encouraging them to think ambitiously, hold themselves to high standards, and continue to develop the habits and behaviours of a Mountain Person. We hope that with your support at home, pupils will embrace this challenge and make it a year of personal growth and success.

A highlight of the half term so far has been our Year 7 cohort participating in an onsite residential programme with Outward Bound. The day provided an exciting opportunity for pupils to engage in hands-on teamwork, problem-solving, and outdoor-inspired challenges within a familiar environment.

The session successfully sparked curiosity, built confidence, and gave pupils a real insight into what Outward Bound experiences are all about. As part of the programme, pupils worked together to build a "Learning Pod", creating a shared basecamp that encouraged collaboration and reflection. They also took part in themed activities inspired by Outward Bound's real-life locations, enhanced through immersive VR and AR technology. Pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day, making it a highly positive and memorable experience for all involved.

Kind Regards,
Mr S Worthington

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, @dt_ardwick for regular updates!

Diary Dates

Thursday 5th February - Year 9 Options Evening

Message from Mr Ahmed & Mr Randles: Pastoral Leads

Welcome Back!

As we begin a new term, we would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our students and families. We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and refreshing break and are ready for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

This term promises to be a busy and rewarding one, with mock exams coming up for year 11 students. As pastoral leads, we are proud of the positive attitudes our students have returned to school with, showing that they are Ready, Respectful and Responsible and look forward to supporting them as they continue to develop both academically and socially.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support, we are excited to see what this term will bring.

Year 7	97%
Year 8	95%
Year 9	93%
Year 10	94%
Year 11	93%

WELL DONE YEAR 7s!

DEAN TRUST Ardwick

Safeguarding Message of the Week

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now part of everyday life — from homework tools to social media filters — but it also brings new safeguarding challenges. High school students are increasingly exposed to AI-generated content, including fake images, misinformation, and “deepfakes.” These can be used for bullying, manipulation, or exploitation, often without the young person even realising it. Encourage pupils to think critically about what they see and share online. Remind them that AI can create realistic but false content, and that sharing altered or explicit images — even generated by AI — is illegal and harmful.

Schools can play a key role in building awareness and resilience. Embedding digital literacy and online safety education into the curriculum helps students recognise manipulated media and understand the ethical use of technology. Staff should maintain up-to-date knowledge of emerging AI trends, monitor potential risks within online interactions, and create a safe space for pupils to talk openly about their online experiences. Collaboration with parents and carers is also vital — by sharing guidance on privacy settings, reporting tools, and how to respond if harmful content is shared, we can work together to ensure young people remain safe and supported in the digital world.

MCAS - ‘My Child at School’

MCAS is the main communication between home and school. MCAS stands for ‘My Child at School’. It is a app downloadable for Apple or Android. We want all parents to download this app to ensure you get key updates about your child at Dean Trust Ardwick.

The information you can see on the app is:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Positive points
- Detentions
- Payments
- Reports

When your child is enrolled at Dean Trust Ardwick:

1) Download the MCAS app
2) You will receive an email with a link to set up your account (the same email you provided to school)
3) Click the link on the email and follow the steps
4) Once set up and signed in through the webpage, you can then log in through the app.
5) You will not be able to use the app if you have not signed up through the web page first.

If you have any questions or issues, please contact our main reception who will be happy to assist you.

10 Year Anniversary: Alumni

This year marks a remarkable milestone for Dean Trust Ardwick - our 10th anniversary! For a decade, our school has been at the heart of the community, shaping futures, inspiring ambition, and creating countless memories along the way. As we look back on all we've achieved, one thing stands out above all else: our people - the pupils, staff, families, and friends who have made our school what it is today.

To celebrate this special moment, we're reaching out to our alumni - all the incredible individuals who once walked our corridors, learned in our classrooms, and helped build the foundation of who we are. Whether you graduated in our earliest years or left just recently, you'll always be part of the Dean Trust Ardwick family, and we'd love to hear from you.

Over the past ten years, so many of our former pupils have gone on to achieve wonderful things - in higher education, careers, and their communities. As we celebrate this milestone, we want to share your stories, celebrate your journeys, and showcase how far our alumni have come.

We're also planning some special anniversary events and features, and we'd love our alumni to be a part of them - from reunion gatherings to newsletters and online spotlights. Whether you'd like to reconnect with teachers and classmates, offer words of advice to current pupils, or simply reminisce about your time here, this is your moment to get involved.

How to Take Part:
If you're a former pupil of Dean Trust Ardwick please get in touch with us! You can:

Email us at miawain@deantrustardwick.co.uk

Fill in our quick alumni form: https://forms.gle/YNgkTp8TohhBmbp49,

Follow us on social media for updates and event details

Let's make our 10-year anniversary not just a celebration of our past — but a celebration of everyone who has been part of our story. We can't wait to reconnect, reflect, and continue building the next chapter together.

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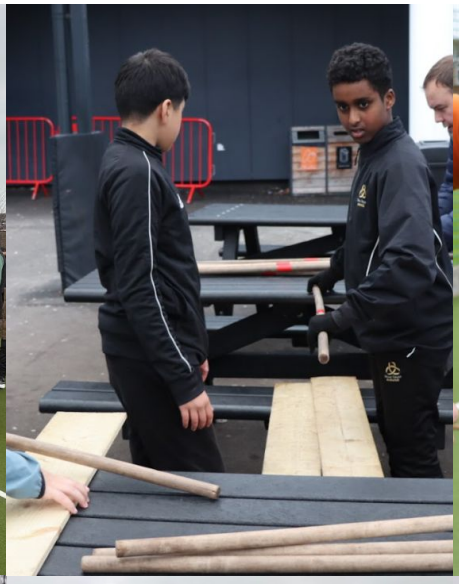
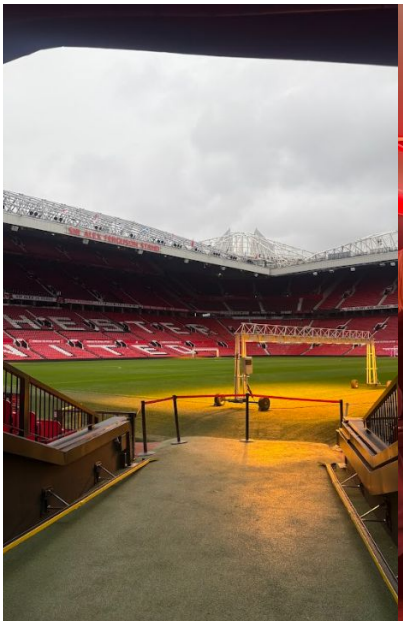
THE OUTWARD BOUND TRUST

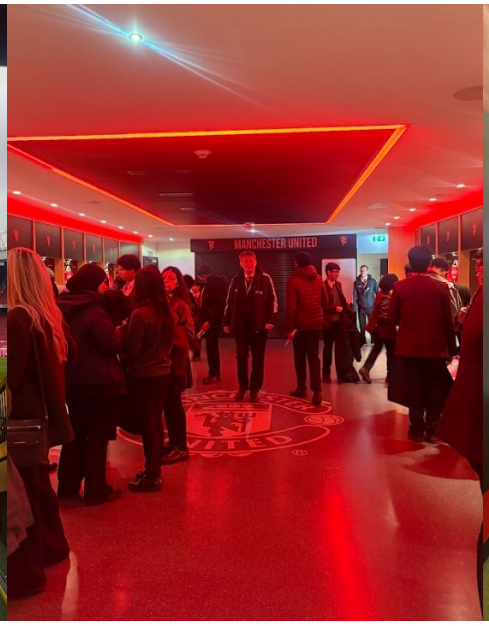


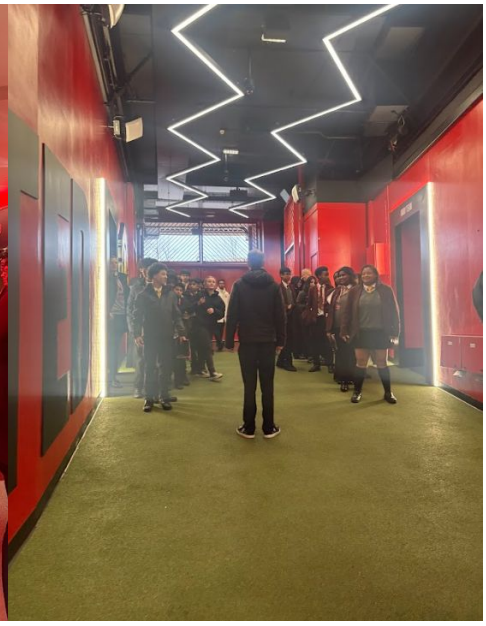
Manchester United Foundation Trip

We selected 50 pupils to attend a trip to Manchester United Football Club. This trip is part of our celebrations marking our 10 Year Anniversary, and focusing on understanding and promoting our school's heritage, culture & identity.

The visit was an exciting and memorable experience, offering pupils the chance to explore the stadium, learn more about the club's history, and take part in a fun, educational session delivered by the Manchester United Foundation.







Useful reminders

Skirt
On or below knee:
Grey box pleat

Trousers
Tailored only:
Permanent crease

Skirt
Not above knee

Trousers
No fashion (e.g. skinny), canvas, brushed cotton or jeans.

Coats

Coats can be worn outside at break and lunch times only. If a pupil is seen with their coat on in school it will be confiscated.

Dark plain coats or jackets only.

Coats should not be worn inside the school building.

Hoodies are not allowed on school site.

No jewellery

No false lashes

No makeup or false tan

No nail varnish or false nails

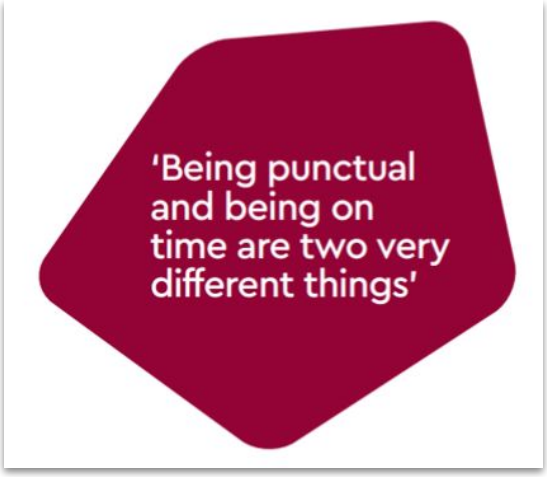
Wristwatch only

No 'Smart' watches

- If a pupil is seen with a mobile phone it will be confiscated by the member of staff.
- The phone will be given to the pastoral office, where it will be placed in the school safe until Friday after school.
- Mobile phones will not be handed back to pupils at any point.
- Only a parent or legal guardian can collect confiscated phones on a Friday after school between 3.00-5.00pm

Students need to:

- Walk with pace and purpose between lessons.
- Remember we are a no touching school
- Adhere to the one way system
- If you arrive after the bell you are late
- If you arrive to school after 9.10am you will receive an unauthorised absence



The road to success begins with outstanding attendance

Attendance Percentage	Days missed in one year	Lessons missed in one year
99%	2	12
98%	4	24
95%	10	60
90%	20	120
85%	30	180
80%	40	240

Spring term dates

Spring Term		
Monday 5th January 2026	Friday 13th February 2026	30
Monday 23rd February 2026	Thursday 2nd April 2026	28

Oasis PACS support

PACS - Parent and Carer support, is for Parents and Carers who are concerned that **their child from aged 8 is at risk** or **involved in risky behaviours** and they need support. An example of this might be they have found a vape in their child's bag and need support of how to deal with this, or they have noticed the relationship has changed in a negative way towards them. Usually, these Parents and Carers will not have any other services involved.

We offer signposting**,** one-to-one support, advocacy in meetings, therapeutic training – Encounter, and access to other parents and carers across Greater Manchester who have been through similar experiences.

Encounter is a therapeutic offer based on the principles of Non-Violent Resistance (NVR), which explores 'connection before correction' and has proven to be effective even where a child has anxiety, ADHD, or Autism. NVR is an innovative form of systemic family intervention, which has been developed for aggressive, violent, controlling, and self-destructive behaviour in young people. It can help parents/carers to re-establish a warm, loving and containing parental presence. This is a fantastic therapeutic programme lasting 8 weeks and is especially of benefit to parents who are struggling to maintain boundaries and high parental presence in the home. The sessions run on the Zoom platform which can be accessed through any smart phone/tablet or laptop.

<u>Upcoming Encounter Course Dates:</u>

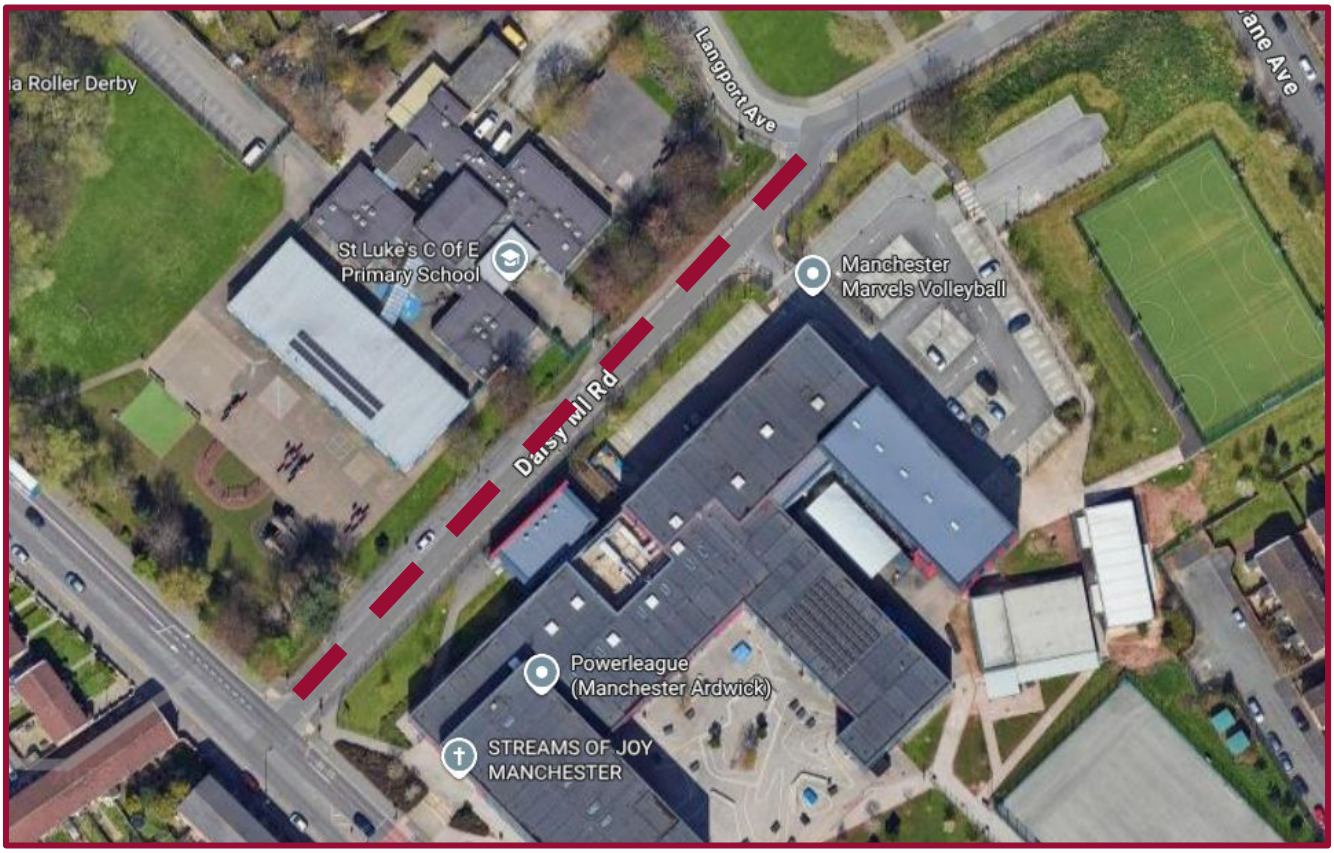
- **Wednesday afternoons** – Starting 14th January, 4:30pm–6:00pm
- **Thursday evenings** – Starting 5th February, 7:30pm–9:00pm
- **Friday mornings** – Starting 13th February, 10:30am–12:00pm
- **Tuesday mornings** – Starting 24th February, 10:30am–12:00pm

Parking around Dean Trust Ardwick

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of car accidents and near misses on Daisy Mill Road, many of which have been linked to illegal or unsafe parking during school drop-off and collection times.

Parking on double yellow lines or blocking residents' driveways not only causes disruption but also puts our pupils and families at serious risk.

We urge all parents and carers to use the designated lay-by parking areas and to park with care and consideration at all times. Our priority is the safety of every child - by working together and following parking guidelines, we can help prevent further accidents and keep our community safe. Please arrange for a safe place to collect your child away from school, if the parking bay is unavailable.



Contact Information:

Dean Trust Ardwick opened in 2015 and we are now a fully-fledged Year 7-11 school, serving over 1300 pupils. We serve the Ardwick and Longsight community and pride ourselves on being a local school for local children. Since our inception, we have become the school of choice for families.

Key Contacts:

Head of School: Mr S. Worthington
Academies Director: Mr. A Shakos
Deputy Headteacher Pastoral: Mrs L. Charles
Deputy Headteacher Curriculum: Ms A. Horsley
Chair of Governing Committee: Dr. S Jenkins
Head of Key Stage 4: Ms J. Halfacre
Head of Key Stage 3: Ms B. Sayeed
SEND Coordinator: Ms J. Hallam
Pupil Services / Parent Contact: Admin
Headteacher's PA and Clerk to Governors: Miss. M Wain
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms C. McNair
Attendance Officer: Ms A. Curran

Useful Email Contacts:

Admin (All General Enquiries): admin@deantrustardwick.co.uk
Head of Year 7: HeadofYear7@deantrustardwick.co.uk
Head of Year 8: HeadofYear8@deantrustardwick.co.uk
Head of Year 9: HeadofYear9@deantrustardwick.co.uk
Head of Year 10: HeadofYear10@deantrustardwick.co.uk
Head of Year 11: HeadofYear11@deantrustardwick.co.uk
Attendance: Attendance@deantrustardwick.co.uk

Telephone: 0161 972 2988

Dean Trust Ardwick is a member of the The Dean Trust.

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