



# NEWSLETTER

25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful I am for the positive messages I have received from many parents and carers in response to my new role at Dean Trust Ardwick. It has been a privilege to help establish the school over the last seven years and I am immensely proud to be given the responsibility to lead the school and serve the local community, following Ms Finlay's retirement.



Mr S.  
Worthington  
Headteacher

Ramadan Mubarak! I hope that those families celebrating Ramadan have had a peaceful and happy start to the month. During our recent INSET day, staff received training on Ramadan to enable the school to support pupils as they return to school after the break. A number of staff have chosen to fast together this week to gain a greater appreciation for what our pupils experience during Ramadan. I would like to congratulate Hassan and Mahmood, who are both featured in this week's newsletter, for their fantastic achievement of memorising the Holy Quran and for being selected to lead prayers at Victoria Mosque. They joined our staff briefing this week to recite some verses from the Quran and they will also be leading prayers for pupils during Friday lunchtime.

Pupils have made a positive start to the new term. They have returned focused and ready to learn, especially our Year 11 pupils who are preparing for their GCSE examinations next month. Exam timetables have been distributed to Year 11 this week and we are working with pupils to best prepare then for their exams. I will be informing parents and carers of Year 11 of the examination and leaving arrangements in the coming weeks.

Best wishes,

Mr S. Worthington

**Safeguarding Tip:** Being well prepared for your exams is the best way to overcome stress and anxiety, and gives you the best chance of getting good grades.

## Diary Dates

GCSE Russian, Urdu and Arabic Speaking Exams	26 <sup>th</sup> April
Year 8 Reach Out Trip	26 <sup>th</sup> April
Bank Holiday	2 <sup>nd</sup> May
GCSE Italian and Portuguese Speaking Exams	6 <sup>th</sup> May



## Head of Year Messages



### **Year 7 – Mrs Rashford** *Welcome back Year 7!*

Welcome back Year 7! I hope that our pupils and families have had a restful and enjoyable break. Year 7 pupils have shown brilliant behaviour so far this year and I am positive this can continue in our final term. The first week back saw our Year 7 pupils have an assembly to reiterate the expectations we have for them at DTA. Uniform and attendance expectations remain consistently high and we look forward to seeing our Year 7 pupils follow these rules as well as they were doing before the holidays. Our Year 7 cohort will become role models to a new year group when they move to Year 8 so now is the time to perfect behaviours and continue working hard!



### **Year 8 – Mr Smith** *Year 8 had an engaging assembly!*

This week has been a time for reflection and refocus for the Year 8 pupils as we enter the summer term. We spoke in the assembly about how they are developing as a cohort of young people that will begin to change from children into young adults and the types of behaviours and expectations we have of them. It was pleasing to see how intently they listened to the challenges that we put in front of them and I'm sure they will flourish this term into the great pupils we know they can be!



### **Year 9 – Mr Diaz** *Year 9 are encouraged to go out of their way to be kind.*

Last week we welcomed our Year 9 pupils back to school. We hope that pupils and their families managed to get some rest over the holidays, as well as spending time outside in the nice weather. Year 9 were welcomed back with an assembly to restate the expectations we have in terms of attendance, uniform and behaviour. This term, we are encouraging our pupils to, not only act respectfully towards everyone, but also to go out of their way to show kindness to others. This will contribute to the kind of environment we want DTA to have. I am confident that our Year 9 pupils will be able to lead with kindness in their everyday lives at school.



### **Year 10 – Mr Chetwyn** *Year 10 can now apply to be prefects!*

We hope everyone had a restful break and that we are all recharged and ready to take this term head-on! We started the week with our assembly to re-establish key routines & to discuss our target areas for development this term. With some of us due to take our first formal GCSE exams in the next 5-6 weeks, all Year 10 pupils have been given a revision handout to summarise some of the most effective revision techniques. We hope these come in handy to support your revision in the build up to exams. Finally, this week marked the opening of prefect applications in preparation for our Year 11s taking their GCSEs and moving on to the next phase of their education. Prefects are a vital part of our school community and we look forward to seeing as many pupils as possible apply!



### **Year 11 – Mr Hull** *Planning for the prom is well underway!*

Last week began with a huge welcome back to all the Year 11 pupils for their final term at Dean Trust Ardwick. There has been much enthusiasm about the Prom, which is scheduled for Friday 24th June 2022. We are really delighted to be the first year group to have this opportunity to celebrate our time together in such a unique and memorable fashion! We understand there may be some parents who have concerns or questions about the event. As such, I will be hosting an online consultation meeting with Ms Qasim at 3:10pm on Wednesday 27th April 2022. Please join this if you can and we will outline the plans for this event and answer any questions. If you are unable to join, we will post a copy of the meeting to the school website and please feel free to contact myself or Ms Qasim to discuss any concerns.



### Odd Arts Workshop

*Year 9 pupils were the first to see a brand new Odd Arts play!*

A group of Year 9 pupils went to Old Trafford football stadium for a workshop with Odd Arts performing company. They spent the morning with members of staff from the Old Trafford Football Museum learning about the history of women's football. Pupils were told that women's football was banned for 50 years and this helped them understand why the sport is where it is today. The afternoon was spent watching the debut of an Odd Arts play which centred around the fallout from the most recent Euros final. The play focused on a friendship group and how they experienced and tackled racism as spectators. As well as watching the play, our pupils were given the opportunity to involve themselves in different scenes to show how they might react to improve the situation. Well done to Savana and Omar for their involvement in some hard-hitting scenes. Well done, also, to Bailey who put forward lots of mature and thoughtful responses throughout the day. The pupils in attendance set a good example and did us proud! Thank you to Mr Griffiths, our Manchester United Foundation Coordinator, who organised this event.



### Author Visit

*Year 7 pupils learned about how everything in the world is connected!*

This week, Year 7 pupils were visited by the non-fiction author, Christopher Lloyd. Christopher hosted a talk on his new book, 'It's Up to Us: A Children's Terra Carta for Nature, People and Planet'. Pupils learned about the connections between animals, microbes, humans and plants in different countries across the world. Christopher highlighted the impact that human treatment of the planet has had throughout history. Our Year 7 pupils were very engaged and represented the school in a mature and positive way. Christopher was particularly impressed with the pupils' desire to answer questions and join in wherever they could! Thank you to Mr Hill, Mr Dillon, Ms Walker, Ms Dillon, Mr Hennessy and Ms Dickinson for supporting their classes during the event. Thank you, as well, to Mr Samuels who ensured the event ran as smoothly as possible. Finally, thank you to Miss Carcamo and Miss Bunting who entered and won a competition that resulted in Christopher Lloyd's visit!



### Performing Arts

*We are so proud of our pupils and their talents!*

Year 9 pupil, Kezia, and Year 8 pupil, Angel, performed a song from 'Wicked' the musical at Ms. Finlay's leaving celebration. Ms. Finlay was so impressed with their performance that she asked them to sing again in a staff briefing so that the wider staff could also hear them. This was a great way for staff to start the day and reminded us how talented our pupils are! Everyone was very impressed and emotional. Thank you Angel and Kezia for performing!



### Recitation of the Holy Quran

*We are in awe of Hassan and Mahmood's achievements!*

We had a presentation of a mesmerising recitation of the Holy Quran by Hassan and Mahmood in our staff briefing. Hassan and Mahmood who are Hafidh (completed their memorisation), are very proudly leading the Tarawih Prayers in Victoria Mosque and Shahjalal Mosque respectively. You can find their videos and podcasts on the links attached.

We have many pupils at DTA who are memorising the Holy Quran by heart. It requires huge commitment and mental resilience to complete memorisation. This is a phenomenal achievement and despite the fact that learning Quran by heart is the most strenuous mental exercise, our pupils at DTA simultaneously perform brilliantly at school. It also emphasises that if our young students use their full potential they can achieve beyond expectations.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_vAacAddwI&t=562s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_vAacAddwI&t=562s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy4SxJmJiq4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w8hdg9Yxsl&t=5327s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi8HZzdMi-o>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7XF0d4mra4JMXytMV4UWbA>



### Year 7 Achievement Assembly

*Well done to the pupils for their hard work last term!*

Year 7 spent part of their last day before the Easter holidays celebrating their achievements. Pupils were awarded for 100% attendance, the most achievement points, for receiving no negative points and for showing DTA's desired behaviours, such as grit and empathy. Faculties also chose pupils who had performed and behaved well in their subjects all term and Ms. Finlay awarded some Headteacher's commendations! Well done to all of the pupils who received awards and Year 7, as a whole, for their positive start to DTA. Thank you to Mr Diaz for hosting the assembly and recognising the efforts of our Year 7 pupils! Thank you, as well, to Miss Williamson and Mr Samuels for all of their hard work to support Year 7 this term.



### Debate Mate

*Well done to our Year 10 team for achieving second place!*

This week, our school took part in the Manchester Secondary Debate Mate Cup Final. We took 15 pupils in total from Years 8, 9 and 10. Throughout the day these pupils took part in three debates.

The debates were:

**This house believes we should use artificial intelligence to make political decisions.**

**This house should ban music which glorifies crime.**

**This house should stop sport representatives from discussing key issues.**

Two of our teams won two debates and our Year 10 team won all three debates! As a result of this, our school had gathered a large number of debating points which placed them in the cup final.

The motion for the cup final debate was:

**This house would introduce and enforce a universal language.**

Our Year 10 team took part in this debate and, even though they did not win, they still put up a very good fight and had a lot of confidence and amazing points. We are thrilled with our result which led us to become runners up for the Manchester Secondary Debate Mate Cup Final 2022! Well done to all of the pupils involved, we are so proud!

