

ReF:ARY/DER/Eas18

March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the Easter break I thought it would be useful to write and update you about what has been happening at De Warenne this half term and what is coming up over the next few weeks. Please note that Friday 23 March is a training day meaning that the academy will be closed to students.

On the up!

The school performance tables were updated recently, confirming our position as the highest performing school in the area. We were delighted to discover that we have moved up to 14 out of 55 similar schools nationally, with no better performing similar school within 75 miles. This is a great indication of the improvements which have taken place at the academy since 2015, when De Warenne was ranked 46 out of 55, and is testament to the hard work of all our students and staff.

The Brilliant Club

Some of our Year 9 and Year 10 students have been working hard this term with a PhD tutor as part of the Brilliant Club. They have each begun writing a 2000 word essay about renewable energy sources. At the end of the project they will then be invited to university for a "graduation ceremony". We are all really impressed with their super attitudes to learning and the way in which they have fully embraced the challenge.

Easter Revision Programme

Our dedicated teachers and subject directors are offering a full programme of revision sessions over the holidays for students in Years 10, 11 and the sixth form. Please encourage your child to take full advantage of all they are offered. With only six school weeks left until the exams season begins, every day really matters. We also continue to offer an after school intervention programme from Monday through to Friday. In addition to this, all of our students also have full access to Hegarty Maths and GCSE Pod. You can find details of the sessions and further revision materials on our website:

<http://www.dewarenne.org.uk/news/easter-revision-session-information>

Sport Relief

Students and staff have been incredibly busy raising a grand total of £289 last week for Sport Relief. A special mention must be given to Eden in Year 7, who took home a sponsorship form and managed to raise £25 for her efforts.

Youth Surgeries

Councillor Lani-Mae Ball visited the academy on Friday to hold a surgery with members of our academy council and our own Doncaster Youth councillors. Topics discussed included how students could volunteer to get involved in the music festival and other events.

Catering

After a tendering process we have decided to change catering contracts from Chartwell's to TNS. Students helped Mrs Robshaw, our Finance manager, and myself to interview each company shortlisted during the process and tasted lots of food. We all felt the new company would offer better quality produce with more cost-effective options. The new company takes over at Easter and enclosed is a list of frequently asked questions regarding our change from Parentpay to School Gateway. You can download the School Gateway app to your phone from the APP Store, Google Play or Windows store.

Transition

We have been warmly welcomed by colleagues and students at Castle, Denaby Main, Morley Place and Hillside Academies, as we continue helping the Year 6 students to prepare for high school. Our latest activity gave primary students the chance to make a video to send to Year 7 asking all the questions they want to about coming to De Warenne. Throughout this term more information will be made available on our website: http://www.dewarenne.org.uk/Moving_Up

Parent Consultation Evening

Our next evening is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12 April from 4.30-6.30pm and is for Years 7, 8 and Post 16.

Staffing

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to a small number of staff this Easter:

Mr Salkeld, Year 10 Learning Manager, is joining the police force and will be replaced by Mr Brown who currently works in an alternative provision school.

Mrs Jackson, Head of English, leaves us to take up a teaching position at the Dearne. We are currently advertising for a new head of department to start in September. For the remaining term we are grateful to Mrs Hannon, our English director, who will lead the team.

Mrs Campbell, English teacher, is retiring and will be replaced by Mrs Waters who joins us from Mexborough.

Mr Hay, vice principal, leaves us to go to De Lacy Academy, another Delta academy.

We are currently recruiting a new vice principal, an assistant principal and heads of maths and English – exciting times I am sure you will agree!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very restful Easter break. I hope you get some time to relax with your families and look forward to welcoming our students back on the blue line on Monday 9 April.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Rooney
Principal

Enc

Meal Payments FAQ

What is happening?

On Monday 9 April a new catering provider is taking over the current service and payments will move from parent pay to school gateway

Why is this change happening?

We believe the new catering provider will provide high quality food provision that our students will enjoy. A number of students tested products from the company and said they were excellent. The change from parent pay to school gateway underpins our commitment to using school gateway as our primary means of contact with home.

How will I top up my child's account?

You will need to be registered for school gateway, instructions on how to do this can be found here - <http://www.dewarenne.org.uk/communication>

If you need to send us your updated contact details to register please do so by either calling the academy on 01709 864001 or sending an email to admin@dewarenne.org.uk

Once you are registered for school gateway and the new service is activated you will then be able to make payments for meals through the website or the app.

Can my child still bring money into the academy and use the top up machine?

Yes, this process is staying the same, although we would still encourage parents to sign up for school gateway to keep an eye on what your child is spending.

What will happen to money that currently sits in parent pay?

The money on your parent pay account is held with our service provider, therefore it will sync with school gateway.

When can I start topping up my school gateway account?

We expect to have everything set up during the second week of the Easter holidays. Once it has been set up we will send a message to let you know you can top up your child's account through school gateway in preparation for the new term.