

20th September 2021

Dear parents / carers,

Despite the ongoing Covid situation meaning that the first experience of the academic year for most of our students meant coming into school to place a nasal swab up their nose(!), it has been a simply phenomenal start to the academic year for all Year 7 and 8 students on Dove campus. The updated government guidance means we have been able to remove bubbles and social distancing and return to a more normal way of working. As a result everything at the start of term was new for both Year 8 as well as Year 7, meaning we had 800 students without a clue where any of their classrooms were, as well as having to get used to new routines and systems!

In spite of this, the first few weeks of term have been simply joyous. The climate around Dove has been happy, positive and calm and I could not be prouder of how the year has started. It has been a real pleasure to see so many smiling faces as they walk past me at the gate at the end of each day. It has been wonderful to see and I must congratulate all of our students on such a fantastic start to the year. Both myself and Mrs Hardy were thrilled with what we saw in every classroom during our walkabouts last week. This was echoed by the primary headteachers who were able to join us on Friday to say hello to their former pupils and see how they have settled in at de Ferrers.

iPads

We have now rolled out iPads to all Year 8 students and plan for the Year 7 roll out to be completed next week (from Monday 27th September). This is a really exciting time as our hugely successful iPad programme is expanded to Dove campus for the first time. Further information about the programme can be found at <https://www.deferrers.com/ipad>. Should you or your child have any queries about their iPad please contact the team via techhelp@deferrers.com.

Open Evening

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our local Year 6 families for our Open Evening on Tuesday 21st September. A big thank you to the large number of students who are helping out on the evening. A reminder that students should arrive at 5:30pm, can be collected at 8:30pm and should be in full uniform.

Year 7 meet the tutor evening

Parents and carers of Year 7 students will have received information of how to book an appointment to meet with their child's form tutor on Thursday 30th September (3:20 - 6:20pm). This is an important opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into life at secondary school and I look forward to meeting many of you at this event next week.

Enrichment Programme

We have missed our clubs, activities and additional sessions so much over the past 18 months and are all delighted to see this element of our wider curriculum offer returning. Our programme for this term can be seen below. We have the target of every student taking part in at least one activity each week as we believe that there is something for everyone in our offer!

Dove Campus Enrichment Programme



	Morning (8:15 – 8:55am)	Lunch (12:30 – 1:20pm)	After school (3:20 – 4:30pm)
Monday	Homework Club (Learning Centre)	Lunch Bunch (Dining Room – <i>by invitation</i>) French Club (DB7)	Homework Club (Learning Centre)
Tuesday	Homework Club (Learning Centre)	Lunch Bunch (Dining Room – <i>by invitation</i>) Creative Writing Club (DB27) Science Bites (DB39) Rap Club (DA47) Year 7 Art Club (DB31)	Homework Club (Learning Centre) Girls & Boys Rugby (Field) Drama Club (DA51) Netball (Courts)
Wednesday	Homework Club (Learning Centre)	Lunch Bunch (Dining Room – <i>by invitation</i>) Junior Choir (DA47) History Club (DA35) Zen Doodle Club (DB12) Film Club (DB21) Year 8 Art Club (DB21) Year 7 Science Homework Club (DA58)	Homework Club (Learning Centre) Girls & Boys Football (Field) Cheerleading (Trent Gym) Combined Cadet Force (Dove Hall - <i>by application</i>) – 4-6PM
Thursday	Homework Club (Learning Centre) Table Tennis (Gym)	Lunch Bunch (Dining Room – <i>by invitation</i>) Netball (Courts)	Homework Club (Learning Centre) Badminton (Dove Gym & Hall)
Friday	Homework Club (Learning Centre)	Lunch Bunch (Dining Room – <i>by invitation</i>) Warhammer Club (DA39) Year 8 Science Homework Club (DA58)	Homework Club (Learning Centre)



The Learning Centre is also open to students before school, at lunchtime and after school every day.
Thursday after school sessions are 3:00 – 4:00pm due to our earlier finish.

Uniform

We take great pride in our uniform and the students have looked incredibly smart on their way to the academy, throughout the day, as well as on their way home. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of ensuring all items of uniform and PE kit are named to allow us to return any lost items.

Working together

Communication and close working between school and home is obviously critical to ensure success for your child. I would like to thank you for your continued support, and should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with the relevant year team (year7office@deferrers.com or year8office@deferrers.com) at any point.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Lovell
Head of School - Dove