



DENE MAGNA

Leading : Learning : Training : Technology

SJB/JRu

9 September 2021

Headteacher: **Stephen Brady** BSc(Hons)

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope everyone has had a fabulous summer and has had time to relax and enjoy some quality time with family and friends. I would like to extend a massive welcome to all our students as it has been a real joy this week seeing our community back together and flourishing once again.

It really has been delightful to see not only our new Year 7 students, but every year group moving happily around; meeting up with their friends, chatting to their teachers and eagerly getting down to work in their lessons. Our new senior students have already taken to their roles, making sure that any Year 7 isn't lost and encouraging them with the true Dene Magna spirit. We are also elated to see the Sixth Form open its doors to our new Year 12s and welcome our Year 13s into their final year at Dene Magna.

We would like to wish all our students success in their hard work as the year begins. This is a vital year for all students with our Year 7s settling in, Year 8 students laying the foundations for their GCSE studies, Year 9 students who will be choosing their KS4 options and Year 10 students who begin those options and head towards their exams. Our Year 11 students who are only 9 months away from sitting their GCSE exams, yes, we understand that the good old fashion written exams will return this year!

Exam results

Talking of exams, it has been another hugely successful year for our students. We had an incredible set of A-Level (our first ever!) and GCSE results. Our overall pass mark at A Level was 100%, with 87% of students achieving a grade of C or above and a fantastic 70% achieving grade B or above. 48% of students achieved at least 1 A grade and 26% of students achieved two or more grade A/A* which is a brilliant achievement. Our average grade this year is a B-, which is phenomenal. It just goes to show how right it was to open the sixth form and we have 180 students on roll as we speak.

At GCSE 78% of our students achieved the Government 4+ Basics measure and 53% achieved the Government 5+ Basics measure. These outcomes are in line with previous years and show the consistency applied in tracking, assessing and supporting students at Dene Magna. They are superb results considering this has been one of the toughest years we have faced as a society and our young people have been impacted in a vast number of ways. This really was a team effort and the results show how powerful it is when we all work together to raise aspirations.

Sixth Form

It is phenomenal to see all of our students in Y12 and 13. To go from 60 students to 180 in three years is superb and we urge you to discuss A-levels with your daughter/son as part of their future plans. Sixth Form Open day is coming up later in the Autumn and we will let you know more about that. For now, we are delighted that our sixth formers are able to come and do their school to school support work with younger students. We have really missed that!

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Uniform

As ever, thank you for supporting the school uniform policy. We think it is pretty common sense and it hasn't changed in years. The students look great and we are continuing our checks to make sure that all of our students look great. Please do get in touch if you are having issues with uniform and we can see how we can help. If your daughter/son has a clear piercing then please save us a job by making sure they are removed before school. It just means we can get on with teaching!

Attendance

As we move to something a little more 'normal' we are once again expecting all students to be in school. Please do not be offended if we get in touch or seem to be pushing high attendance. We just know that being in school and learning is one of the best ways to ensure your child's success in the future. Each house has a target to win the house cup and attendance forms a big part of that. If you are not in school, you cannot get merits and your progress will suffer. As you will know, we will always support any child or family who may be struggling and please do get in touch with the house teams to see how we can help.

Email correspondence

We will be continuing to use email to send out correspondence to parents/carers. It is so much quicker to get messages home, so please let reception know (reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk) if your email has changed over the holidays.

Website

Please also continue to keep an eye on our website and follow our Facebook and Twitter pages, we use these channels a lot to inform parents/carers of any news and announcements. We do not use Facebook as a discussion forum, so if you do want to let us know about a specific issue or idea then please email instead.

Transport and Parking

We do realise that drop off and pick up times at Dene Magna are very busy times, but please do not park on the verges or by our roundabout and whilst waiting please remember to turn your engines off. We would prefer your daughter/son to come on the bus so do look into that if you have not already done so.

Covid-19

All students have now been tested through the Lateral Flow tests for Covid and this has been carried out efficiently and the students have been superb. I must thank our team of staff and volunteers who ensured this went so well. As you know, we still have to be mindful and I ask you to continue to support hygiene and preventative measures (including regular home testing). It helps prevent any issues in school!

There is a great atmosphere around the school, we are absolutely loving having everyone back again and we are truly excited about the coming year. Here's to a fantastic year!

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Brady
Headteacher