



23 October 2020

Dear parents/ carers

As we break for half term we wanted to say a big thank you for all your continued support as we all continue to adapt to new processes and systems. It has been the fantastic team effort from students, staff and yourselves that have enabled us to have such a strong start to the school year, with everyone enjoying being back together,

Students have been welcomed back to school with engaging and exciting lessons. In music, year 7 students have been competing in a Stomp challenge in which they composed a body percussion-based piece of music and then listened (via a recording) to each other's to vote for a winner. You can read all about this [here](#). In computer science year 10 students began the cyber discovery challenge in which they are learning about cyber security and year 7 students have been learning about becoming a digital citizen by completing Google Interland games designed to educate them about being safe online. You can read about this [here](#).

Students across all year groups participated in the Race for Life during PE lessons, raising over £3000 for Cancer Research UK. Read all about this amazing event [here](#). Our brand-new sports facilities are nearing the end of completion and we are very excited about the opportunities this will offer to both our students and the wider community. You can read about the progress so far [here](#).

Although we were unable to open our doors physically to prospective parents/carers in the usual way we were proud to be able to showcase our school virtually, offering prospective families the opportunity to visit us virtually and 'meet' many of our staff and students. Thank you to all the staff and students that took part in the videos, you are fantastic ambassadors for our school. You can view the virtual tour [here](#).

We have ended this half term on a huge high with a focus on celebrating those students who have been awarded kindness badges by their company tutor as part of our KAPP recognition programme. Early next term we will be awarding pride and aspiration badges to students whose parents have nominated them for outstanding achievements outside of school. Many congratulations to those students who have received badges this half term and we look forward to many more moments of celebration as we continue to embed the values of kindness, aspiration, perseverance and pride into school life. You can read more about what KAPP means at DHS [here](#).

We are looking forward to all the opportunities that next half term will bring and are delighted that clubs will start in the following areas; PE, performing arts, science and computing. All activities will take place in year group bubbles and have been risk assessed.

On returning to school after the half term break, please can you check that your son/daughter are re-stocked with hand-sanitiser and have at least two masks with them. This will help us get off to a smooth start and ensure our focus is on helping your child to succeed.

We hope that you and your family have a lovely half term.

Kind regards

Handwritten signature of Sue Marooney in black ink.

Sue Marooney

Executive Headteacher /CEO DMAT

Handwritten signature of Chris Woodcock in black ink.

Chris Woodcock

Head of School