

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another GREAT year at Deptford Green! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer with your family.

It has been a real pleasure getting to know our students, and I would like to take this opportunity to commend them for the positive relationships they have already begun to build with me and with one another. I have been particularly pleased to see their enthusiasm for learning, their participation in lessons and their involvement in enrichment activities beyond the classroom.

As we move through Year 9, this is an important stage in your child's education. Students are becoming increasingly independent and are beginning to prepare for the expectations and challenges of Key Stage 4. My priority is to ensure that every student feels supported, challenged and encouraged to achieve their very best.

I will be working closely with students, staff and families throughout the year, with a particular focus on the following key areas:

- **Improving attendance:** Every day and every lesson counts. Regular attendance is essential for academic progress, personal development and social wellbeing. I will continue to work with students and families to remove barriers to attendance and ensure that every student feels safe, valued and motivated to attend school every day.
- **Raising the quality of student work:** We have high expectations of our Year 9 students. I want to see students taking greater pride in their work, responding positively to feedback and developing the confidence and independence they need to succeed.
- **Improving the completion and quality of home learning:** Homework plays an important role in reinforcing learning and developing independent study habits. Students should be completing their home learning on time and to the highest standard possible.

Strong communication and partnership between school and home are essential to achieving these aims. I am therefore writing to remind you of some key information regarding our expectations, important routines and the ways in which you can support your child throughout Year 9.

Behaviour for Learning – Key Reminders

I would like to remind you of our Behaviour for Learning expectations and ask that you continue to support your child in meeting these standards. These expectations help us to maintain a safe, respectful and positive environment for all students.

In addition to behaviours that already warrant an after-school reflection — including truancy, poor corridor behaviour, patrol support, unkind behaviour, on-call incidents, wearing a coat inside school, not wearing a jumper or blazer, and phone confiscations — the following behaviours will also result in a **30-minute after-school reflection**:

- Breaking toilet protocols, including using the incorrect toilets or having more than one student in a cubicle.
- Chewing gum.
- Racist, homophobic or sexist incidents.

Please take some time to discuss these expectations with your child and remind them of the importance of making positive choices throughout the school day.

I would like to highlight that we have made changes to the mobile phone policy in line with national guidance and there is a zero tolerance on mobile phone visibility/use from gate to gate. Please do support us with this.

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance is vital to success at GCSE level and beyond. Every lesson counts, and students who attend school consistently are in the strongest position to achieve their full potential.

We understand that illness and unforeseen circumstances can sometimes prevent students from attending school. If your child is absent, please report the absence through our school attendance platform, **Studybugs**. If you experience any difficulties accessing the platform, please contact me.

Students with attendance of **96–100%** miss significantly less learning and are better placed to make strong academic progress.

Please support us by ensuring that your child:

- Attends school every day wherever possible.
- Arrives at school on time and ready to learn.
- Is punctual to every lesson.
- Has any absence reported promptly through Studybugs.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please ensure that a member of your child's pastoral team is informed. This allows us to know that your child is safe at home and prevents valuable time being spent following up unexplained absences.

Safeguarding, Social Media and Getting Home Safely

As our young people grow older, social media and online communication are becoming an increasingly important part of their lives. While these platforms can be a positive way to communicate and maintain friendships, they can also present risks.

Students will continue to explore online safety and responsible use of social media through PSHE. I would encourage you to have regular, open and honest conversations with your child about their online activity. If you have concerns, please take the time to check the apps and conversations they are engaging with and discuss any potential risks with them.

I would also like to remind you of our expectations at the end of the school day. The safety of our students remains a priority, and staff are on duty until **3:30pm** each day.

Please remind your child of the importance of leaving school and making their way home promptly. Students should not be hanging around the local community after school, and we strongly encourage them to go straight home unless they have a specific reason to remain at school.



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Positive Contributions to School Life

We are committed to recognising and celebrating students who make positive contributions to school life.

I would like to congratulate our **top 10 LORIC point earners**:

15/9/26 - Year 9 Photographs

28/01/27 - Year 9 MenACWY - Vaccinations

02/02/27 - Year 9 Art Exhibition begins

03/02/27 - Year 9 Careers Focus in Disco Days

09/02/27 - Celebration breakfast

10/02/27 - Year 9 Parents' Evening and Pathways Fayre

23/02/27 - Year 9 Pathways Interviews

7/7/27 - Year 9 Graduation Evening

These students have demonstrated the positive behaviours and values that we want to see across Year 9. I look forward to celebrating many more students and their achievements throughout the year.

ClassCharts

A reminder that **ClassCharts** is our online platform used to reward students, set home learning and record sanctions.

Parents and carers should have received an email containing a parent code, which enables you to log in and monitor your child's progress.

I encourage you to check ClassCharts regularly and have conversations with your child about their points, achievements and areas for improvement. At the end of each week, please take the opportunity to review their progress and, where possible, recognise and reward their positive efforts.

As Head of Year, I will also be regularly celebrating students who demonstrate excellent effort, behaviour, attendance and contribution to school life.

Unifrog

As Year 9 students begin to think more seriously about their future, Unifrog will be an important platform in helping them explore their interests, strengths and potential career pathways.



Students will be encouraged to use Unifrog to explore different careers, subjects, qualifications and opportunities available to them. This will help them begin to understand how the choices they make now can support their future aspirations.

We encourage you to engage with Unifrog at home and talk to your child about what they are discovering. Asking questions about their interests, the careers they are curious about and the subjects they enjoy can help them to develop a clearer sense of direction as they move towards Key Stage 4 and beyond.

Please ensure that your child regularly accesses their Unifrog account and completes any activities or tasks set by the school. This is an excellent opportunity for them to begin taking ownership of their future and developing the knowledge and confidence they need to make informed decisions.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or would like to discuss your child's progress.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Ms F Boyefio

Head of Year 9

Deptford Green School