

## The Parents' Guide to Dean Close Preparatory School Speech Day, written by a parent, for parents

### **Summer Extravaganza, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June**

Speech Day is one of the highlights of the School calendar which pupils, parents and staff look forward to every year. It always starts with a celebration of Music, Drama, Dance and Gymnastics at the Bacon Theatre at 5.00pm. Known as 'The Summer Extravaganza', this show is not to be missed. Whether your child is taking part or not, you will be thoroughly entertained by fun, light-hearted performances, which will leave you with just a notion of what the pupils have been getting up to throughout the School year.

Pupils not performing may go home at 4.35pm. The School day finishes after the final performance. Tickets are not required, there will be space to accommodate everyone.

### **Speech Day, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June**

Children should register as normal at 8.15am in their Houses, while parents are invited to grab a coffee and pastry in the dining room. Our end of year Leavers' Service in the Chapel starts at 8.40am. Parents are welcome to attend.

There is plenty of parking on the school field, which is efficiently managed by staff.

After the Chapel Service all the children will go back to their houses to register. You should then go and collect your children from the houses and take the opportunity to visit the French Café, where pupils serve delicious fresh coffee and pastries.

Speech Day is definitely a chance to dress up; ladies - your best summer frocks, gentlemen - smart jackets and shiny shoes. Pupils in Year 6, 7 and 8 wear summer uniform, complete with blazers.

There is lots going on all morning and you can pick and choose where you visit and what you see. You could take a stroll to the school's beautiful amphitheatre to watch the Year 8 Latin play; if you have never visited before it is worth the walk, the play is always good fun, with some great costumes.

All morning many of the classrooms are open so parents can view what the children have been learning about over the year. There are always displays in the Art and DT rooms, the Science block and Junior Form rooms.

Speeches and prize-giving take place at 11.30am; this year's speaker is Television Presenter, Mrs Angellica Bell. The prize-giving can be quite emotional so remember to take a tissue, especially if your child is lucky enough to receive an award.

After the speeches everyone is invited to Dean Close House gardens, where drinks will be served.

Parents and children are then welcome to enjoy a picnic in the beautiful School grounds (Bring your own food, blankets and chairs). For those families who have ordered picnic hampers through the School they will be ready for collection from Dean Close House gardens.

Families normally disperse after their picnics are finished by around 2.30pm, for a well-earned summer break.