



Lealands
High School
A Specialist Sports College
Aspire Believe Achieve

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Wednesday 8th July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Lealands High School Update

I hope that this letter finds you all well and safe during these exceptional times. Here at school we have continued to make provision for our key worker and vulnerable students as well as welcoming back Year 10 and other groups of students in the last few weeks. It has been an absolute pleasure to see them and their approach and attitudes have been incredibly positive. As teachers, we have very much missed the face-to-face teaching at school and we all look forward to a return to some form of normality.

As we are fast approaching the end of this most extraordinary year, I wanted to take some time to explain the final day of the academic year and how things might look in September.

Firstly, the final day of this academic year is Friday 17th July and teachers will continue to set work according to the timetable up to until the end of period 3 on the 17th. There will then be an end of year celebratory assembly for students to watch which will be posted by their Head of Year. Year 11 students will be receiving their 'Leavers' Assembly' to celebrate their five years with us and all that they have achieved

At school, the children of key workers and vulnerable students will be in as normal but will finish at 12:30pm. Other groups scheduled to be in on the final day will continue until the necessary work is completed up until 3:10pm.

During the summer holidays, we would expect students to take a break from their learning although they will need to ensure that, if they have fallen behind at all, they are caught up with all of their subjects before September. However, there are also lots of activities, on the website, that they can take part in if they wish.

On Thursday 2nd July, we received guidance from the government about a return to school for all students in September. However, it has been made clear that schools must limit the contact between all individuals on a daily basis by ensuring that students remain in consistent groups (bubbles). No specific social distance has been set for schools but the expectation is that secondary aged children are old enough to be able to manage this themselves with the support and encouragement of staff. In addition, schools are being asked to minimise the movement of students around the school and to have staggered break and lunch times for each year group. This is in addition to a range of sanitary and precautionary measures to minimise the risk of infection.

This inevitably means that, although all students will be back, we will not be able to run our usual timetable where students have 5 different lessons and a tutor period across the school site every day. We are now in the process of devising a new timetable that follows this guidance but at the same time maintains the broad and balanced curriculum that all students deserve. Students in the same year group will, therefore, mostly be kept in the same place on any one day and it is likely that during the week they will spend one day in maths, one in English, one in science, one in humanities and one in another area of the school. Subjects will be taught for longer periods of time and teachers of other subjects will either go to the room where the students are based or collect and escort them to other rooms where necessary. There is likely to be a little more movement for some

Key Stage 4 students so that they can access their options subjects. Again, they will have a dedicated period of time for each subject in the week rather than the usual one hour lessons.

This is a model that many secondary schools across the country are adopting to meet the challenges of the guidance. However, the model has to be adapted carefully to fit the layout and context of each school.

The details of this new timetable will take some time to finalise. However, we will ensure that it is shared with you and all the students in time for the start of the new academic year. We would then revert back to a more normal timetable and routine once the Government allows this to happen. Originally our plan for the start of next year was to have 2 training days on 1st and 2nd September followed by Year 7 starting at the normal time on Thursday 3rd, followed by other year groups arriving mid-morning. However, I am very conscious that our new Year 7 students have completely missed their in-school induction this term and, therefore, we will be giving them an additional day at school by themselves on Friday 4th September, with the rest of the students returning during the following week. The return of other students will be staggered with each year group returning on a different day so that they and the school can get used to the new arrangements and ensure that they can run effectively for a full school by the end of the second week of term. Currently we are planning the following return dates for each year group (but this may be subject to change):-

Year 7 - Thursday 3rd September
Year 11 - Monday 7th September
Year 8 - Wednesday 9th September
Year 10 - Thursday 10th September
Year 9 - Friday 11th September

There are many other issues to be resolved and we will gradually work through these during the summer weeks to ensure that we mitigate against any risk of transmission of the virus at school. For example, we intend to create separate entrances to the school for different year groups and routes to their area of the school for the day to avoid contact between year groups. We are likely to have a slightly different start and end time for one or two year groups with a reduced lunchtime (packed lunches will be required and provided to students on free school meals, but we currently do not anticipate being able to offer any food service in school) and there will be very limited social space for each year group. We are also looking into whether we can provide different coloured ties for some year groups so that all staff can be sure that students are not mixing between years in corridors or social spaces. The Government have said that all students will be expected to be in school and we will do all we can to follow the guidance and make the school as safe as possible. This will give you an indication of the many differences and approaches that will be in place in September, however, I will be writing to you again with further specific details in the coming weeks up until September. We will also be providing strict guidance for students on what is required of them as we will need everyone's full cooperation to make this work.

We will be back in school from the second week in mid-August, preparing for GCSE results day, finalising in-school arrangements and adjusting to any further guidance or changes received from the Government prior to our September start. Please feel free to email me with any queries up to the 17th July or from Wednesday 19th August at head@lealands.luton.sch.uk. Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your amazing support and for the incredible determination and commitment shown by all of our community to maintain positive learning and wellbeing during this time.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Burridge
Headteacher