



Lealands High School

A Specialist Sports College

Aspire Believe Achieve

Lealands High School

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Headteacher: Mr J Burridge BA (Hons) PGCE, MA, NPQH

Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope that this finds you safe and well.

I wanted to write to you regarding the final week of term and in relation to the coming weeks/months of distanced learning.

We are all in unprecedented times and the whole Lealands community are trying to adjust as quickly as possible to a new way of schooling. Teachers and students are trying their best to adapt to teaching online and we are all grateful for your support and patience as we iron out initial issues. I am monitoring the use of Google Classroom closely and I am proud to say that the majority of students in year 9 are engaging well in the work that has been published. There are also daily 'check-ins' from tutors. There is a Google Classroom for the whole of year 9, where I and the pastoral team will be posting regular announcements and updates, in addition to assemblies; the format for which is still to be decided.

It is absolutely imperative that students continue to work towards their GCSEs as we simply won't get this time back. The next 2 years will be the most important years of their lives and working independently now will help to make learning across the GCSE course as smooth as possible. Student work and progress will still be monitored and marked in line with school policies. Students will also be awarded with STEP points by teaching staff for the work they are completing. Your support in tracking the work that your son/daughter is doing each day is a vital cog in this process to ensure that progress is made; your continued support with this is greatly appreciated.

The expectation is that students complete their usual school day as closely as possible. They would usually complete 5 lessons a day and that is what they should continue doing. Staff will be setting an equivalent amount of work for each lesson that they would have in a week. The expectation of when this should be completed will depend upon the subject area. In Languages, we have set an ongoing number of lessons worth of work. Students should then have completed 3 hours' worth by the end of the week. You can see when staff are expecting work to be completed by the deadline on Google Classroom. We envisage that there will be a trial period and it may take some time for us as staff to set an appropriate amount of work, although most work has now been set. Please do let me know if your son/daughter is feeling overwhelmed in the instance that too much work is being set. Similarly, I would like you to let me know if you feel that there is not enough work set.

School work is hugely important but it is tantamount that students prioritise their well-being. With the government's new strict guidance to fight the virus, it is likely that they will be at home for an extended period of time. Here are a few tips:

- Try to complete one form of exercise a day such as a run, walk or cycle. This should be done alone or only with people that you live with.

- Take up something new! - Learn to cook, paint, a new language etc.
- Stay in communication with others. Social media and instant messaging can be really positive (for a change!). FaceTime friends and make sure that you keep in touch.
- Don't watch too much of the news! It's overwhelming at the moment and can become depressing!

Over the coming weeks staff will be in regular contact with students and yourselves via email to check how things are going, to ensure work is being completed and to answer any questions that you may have. If in the meantime, you require information or have a concern in relation to the amount of work being completed then do not hesitate to make contact.

Furthermore, if students are struggling and need support, they can contact the safeguarding team by emailing myself or one of the staff listed below.

Important contacts:

Subject specific information - Class Teacher

General information - Form Tutor

Pastoral matters – Mr Taplin (Head of Year 9), Mrs Hill (Pastoral Support Manager), Mr Ward (Deputy Head – Safeguarding), Mr Mason (Assistant Head – Pastoral Link KS4), Mrs Oliver (Senior Pastoral Support Manager – Safeguarding)

Useful links/information:

Join The Pod - http://www.jointhepod.org/students?dm_i=5HV9,6G8W,20HF50,O8J6,1

Support for Parents and Carers during Corona Virus -

https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners.html?utm_source=TS&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBEDGN0320COVID

Finally, remember that the Year 9 team are here for you. If there is anything concerning you whatsoever and you would like to discuss it with us, then please drop us an email.

Take care and keep safe,

Mr C P Taplin
Head of Year 9
Teacher of MFL



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