



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 of Year 8,

I hope that this finds you well and safe.

I wanted to write to you regarding the final week of term and in relation to the coming weeks/months of remote learning. Your child approached the final week of school excellently and both Mrs Cutteridge and I are extremely proud in the way they applied themselves during what was a very stressful and unsure period.

We are all in unprecedented times and the whole Lealands community are trying to adapt and adjust as quickly as possible to the new way of schooling. Teachers and students are trying their best to get used to online teaching, and we are all grateful for your support and patience as we iron out initial issues. The feedback so far from staff is that a majority of Year 8 have engaged with their Google Classrooms brilliantly. Thank you for your support to your child in helping them to do this.

You will have received information from Mr Edwards with regard to the curriculum in Year 8 and their upcoming options. You will also receive a booklet before the Easter holidays that includes information on the courses that pupils have the option of choosing. Your child will receive an email with a google form that will allow them to choose preferences for the courses they wish to study. At this important time, your support in selecting options and tracking the work your child is doing each day is a vital part in this process to ensure they are in the best position when they return to school.

I have set up a year group Google Classroom. I will be posting regular announcements, updates and opportunities. I will also use this forum to continue the pastoral support offered by tutor time and assemblies. This will include activities to help develop their character and mindset, and also continue some careers education to support their growth. It is therefore essential that your child engages in this. Please could you ensure your child has signed up for this google classroom as well as their curriculum subjects and monitor.

The expectation is that your child completes their usual school day as closely as possible. They would usually complete 5 lessons a day and that is what they should continue doing. The work will be posted onto a Google Classroom that your child should have access to. You can find their timetable on Epraise, making this easier to track. If you have not got the Epraise app yet, please access it as soon as possible. If you need help to log on, please contact me via the contact information at the end of this letter.

Staff will be setting an equivalent amount of work for each lesson that they would have in the week. The expectation of when this should be completed is dependent on the subject area and a deadline date will be shown on the google classroom page. Students should, however, aim to complete work when they would normally have the lesson.

Student work and progress will still be monitored and marked in line with school policies. Students will also be awarded with Independent Learning STEP points by teaching staff for the work they are completing. This will generate milestone awards on Epraise for every 25 STEPs they receive, so you can monitor from home. These rewards will be acknowledged by the school and will be celebrated in some manner once we return to school.

School work is hugely important, but it is key that students prioritise their wellbeing. 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. If you cannot get out of the house, you can do some exercise at home, perhaps running on the spot or steps.
- Work together on a new skill! Help your child learn to cook something new or learn sign language using YouTube. These are skills that may help them in the future!
- Stay in communication with others. Social media and instant messaging can be really positive (for a change). Facetime with 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 get you down!

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 try and answer any questions that you may have. If, in the meantime, you require any information, or have any concern in relation to the amount of work being completed then please do not hesitate to make contact.

Furthermore, if your child is struggling and needs 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:
 - Miss Keefe (Head of Year): keefen@lealands.luton.sch.uk
 - Mrs Cutteridge (Pastoral Support Manager): cutteridgeh@lealands.luton.sch.uk
 - Mr Ward (Deputy Head – Safeguarding): wards@lealands.luton.sch.uk
 - Mr Hall (Assistant Head – Pastoral Link for Year 8): hallj@lealands.luton.sch.uk
 - Mrs Oliver (Safeguarding): olivers@lealands.luton.sch.uk

Useful links/information:

- Epraise: <https://www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?school=lealands&login=parents>
- GCSEPod: www.gcsepod.com
- BBC Bitesize (GCSE): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z98jmp3>
- Hegarty Maths: <https://hegartymaths.com/>
- Educake: <https://www.educake.co.uk/>
- Active Learn: <https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com/app/Home>
- Join The Pod - 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, please remember that the Year 8 team is here for you. If you have any concerns please contact us via e-mail and we will endeavour to help the best that we can.

Take care and keep safe,

Miss Keefe
Head of Year 8



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