



# 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*

26<sup>th</sup> 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. Overall, Year 11 students approached last week excellently and the Year 11 team are extremely proud of the manner in which they applied themselves during that period. Please take time to read the next school newsletter where myself and Ms Goodrum have reflecting on some of our amazing times with Year 11.

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. The feedback I have had from staff so far is that Year 11 have engaged with Google Classroom brilliantly - great work everyone! There are also daily 'check-ins' with our year group Google Classroom for the whole of Year 11 where myself and the pastoral team post regular announcements and updates.

It is absolutely imperative that students continue to work towards their GCSEs as we simply won't get this time back plus there are still some decisions to be made from the government about how GCSE grades will be awarded. We believe that this is likely to be based primarily on teacher assessment with mocks, coursework and work completed used as evidence along with some statistical methodology and external moderation. However, we still await details. While this is the case, it is imperative that Year 11 students put themselves in the best possible position to achieve the grades they need and the work they are doing now will contribute to that evidence and teacher judgements.

Next year will be the next step in their lives and by working independently now, this will help to make that transition into further education as easy as possible. 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. Student work and progress will still be monitored and marked in line with school policies as well as used towards final predicted grades. Students will also be awarded with STEP points by teaching staff for the work they are completing.

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. Please do let me know if your son/daughter is feeling overwhelmed as just too much work is being set. Similarly, let me know if you feel that there is not enough work set.

School work is hugely important but it is key 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 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 below staff:

Important contacts:

Subject specific information - Class Teacher

General information - Tutor

Pastoral and safeguarding matters – Head of Year – Miss Sheridan and Pastoral Support Manager – Ms Goodrum as well as Mr Ward (Deputy Head – Safeguarding), Mr Mason (Assistant Head – Pastoral Link), Mrs Oliver (Senior PSM – Safeguarding)

Useful links/information:

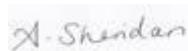
Support for Parents and Carers during Corona Virus -

[https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners.html?utm\\_source=TS&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=GBEDGN0320COVID](https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners.html?utm_source=TS&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBEDGN0320COVID)

Students in Year 11 have understandably been concerned that their normal school leaving activities may not be able to take place. Rest assured, once we are able, a celebration event will be arranged and students invited to attend. Although this may not be what they had expected and hoped for, it will be an opportunity to get together and remember our time together over the past 5 years.

Finally, remember that the Year 11 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,



Miss Sheridan  
Head of Year 11