



Friday 22nd May 2020

Information for the Parents of Year 10 Students

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I last wrote to parents on the 12th May following the Government's announcement that lockdown restrictions would begin to be eased and there would be a phased return to school. Since then there has been a great deal of guidance and some controversy about the plans for schools.

It remains that the Government is committed to Year 10 students have some face-to-face time with school staff before the end of the Summer term. This is to support their online/remote learning and ensure that they are learning and progressing as effectively as possible during this period. All schools will be approaching this differently, depending on their context. However, we have worked with the Local Authority and other maintained secondary schools in the town to agree some common principles for this. Our aims at Lealands for Year 10 time in school are to:-

1. Support the ongoing wellbeing of young people preparing to take their exams in Year 11
2. Ensure that all students in Year 10 are making the most of their learning and continue to progress towards the examination results they should achieve in Year 11
3. Ensure that there is no compromise of safety and that risks are at an absolute minimum for both staff and students
4. Make sure that plans are inclusive of all and practically manageable

We have consulted with staff and worked through safety and practical considerations. A risk assessment has been undertaken and the school have commissioned a leading Health and Safety Consultancy Firm (Southalls) to ensure that we are doing everything possible to minimise risks.

Our plans for Year 10 have four key elements:-

1. **Meetings in school for each Year 10 student with a member of staff** (in most cases, their tutor). These will include the opportunity to discuss work and any issues the student is facing. It will also be an opportunity for students to seek clarification or ask for advice and give feedback to staff. Follow up phone calls or meetings may then be arranged to support with particular subjects, topics or issues as necessary. We hope that all Year 10 students will benefit from these meetings. We will look to support students who are in 'shielding' categories differently.

To ensure safety, students will arrange the meeting online (using the parents evening appointment system which will be adapted). They will enter via the gate by the tennis courts and each meeting will take place in a science classroom where there is an external door. Students will enter and exit through the external door and will not move through

corridors or into other parts of the school. Social distancing will be maintained in the meetings and students must not congregate with others or travel to or from the meeting with friends or others not from their household.

We anticipate these meetings to begin from the week beginning 8th June dependent on any further Government announcements or guidance. Further details about how to make an appointment will be emailed to students and parents after half term.

2. **After half term, all subject teachers will present a Loom video** of themselves talking through the work that their Year 10 students should have completed to date, and any complex concepts or areas students have been struggling with in general will be explained more fully. There will be a clear explanation of what must be completed during the final half term of Year 10 in their subject. This will be online and will ensure that all students get clarity about what they need to do in each subject.
3. **Teaching staff will invite groups of students to attend a 'Google Meet'** following the Loom presentation. This is an online meeting through the school's system (similar to Zoom). In this meeting there will be time for online 'face-to-face' discussion of work and issues with their own subject teacher. These meetings will take place in normal timetabled lesson times. We think this will provide an excellent opportunity to ensure that students get the help they need safely and this ensures that everyone with internet connection and a device can be included (we hope the devices ordered from the Government for our disadvantaged Year 10 students will be in place for these). Some teachers may provide more than one Loom and/or Google Meet, but all will provide at least one for Year 10. We are certain our students will behave appropriately and well in these meetings, but for added security and safety, they will be monitored live by a second member of staff. Students must ensure that if they join using a device with a camera, that they are in front of a neutral background and dressed appropriately (eg. as they would for a non-uniform day in school).
4. **Some students will be invited in to school in very small groups for half days/days to work on completing coursework.** Some subjects have coursework that students can do now and which is part of the assessment for their examination at the end of Year 11. This coursework has to be completed under supervision in school. Groups invited in will be very carefully managed, they will be small groups, social distancing will be maintained and they will not mix with other groups. This will be quite limited, but will enable some students to complete this part of their course ahead of Year 11 which we think will be of significant benefit.

Our plans may change or adapt as the situation evolves, but I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know what we are working towards implementing at this stage to support you and your child with their ongoing GCSE work.

In addition to the 400+ phone calls we are making each week to the parents of our vulnerable and disadvantaged students, we have now begun the process of phoning all parents, starting with Year 10. Please take advantage of this opportunity to discuss your child's work and anything that the school can do to support further. If you need to contact us, please use the MyEd app or email admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience at this time and I hope that you find the approach we are taking to be beneficial and supportive.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J Burridge', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr J Burridge
Headteacher

