

Dear Parent/Carer

Parent/Carer newsletter: Friday 16 September 2022

Bank Holiday – Monday 19 September

Following the announcement of the death of our Queen Elizabeth II, the day of her State Funeral has been declared a bank holiday. This means school is closed on Monday 19 September and will reopen as usual on Tuesday 20 September.

Open Evening for Year 5&6 pupils

Yesterday, we held our annual open evening for Year 5&6 pupils. The evening was very well attended and there was a very positive atmosphere across the school. I would personally like to thank all our pupils that volunteered on the evening in the role of guides or departmental helpers and a special mention to **Oscar C-G** and **Roxy B** in Year 7 and **Quaneisha Y** and **Sophie A** in Year 8 for addressing our visitors in the two formal presentations throughout the evening. They spoke with real confidence and it was a joy to hear their enjoyment of school.

Homework

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, this year, there will be an increased expectation with homework and the necessity for pupils to take home their books, ensuring they bring them to each lesson. We have already seen improved engagement with homework which is really encouraging.

Outlined below summarises our expectations for the year.

In order to support, consolidate and stretch pupils' learning, staff will set homework for pupils to complete. Homework will be shared with pupils during the lesson. Pupils will be given appropriate support to record their homework in their planners. In addition, all homework will be recorded on Class Charts with a suggested amount of time pupils should spend on their homework. Realistic deadlines will be given for homework and every effort will be made by staff to keep to a regular schedule of setting homework which pupils will be made aware of.

Key Stage 3 – Year 7, 8 & 9

In KS3, homework will take the form of the following:

1. Revision for a low stakes test or quiz. The focus for the test / quiz will be to support pupil retention of knowledge taught.
2. A piece of reading homework related to the subject curriculum. This piece of reading homework could have a series of questions for pupils to answer.

Commitment | Creativity | Community

Principal: Mr J Cowper
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In core subjects, maths, English and science, homework will be set at least once a week. In most cases, the work set should take pupils 30 minutes to complete.

In history and geography, homework will be set at least fortnightly. Thirty minutes would be the expected amount of time to be spent on the task to produce a quality piece of work.

All other subjects will set regular homework at appropriate times suited to their curriculum.

Key Stage 4 – Year 10 & 11

In KS4, homework will take the form of the following:

1. Revision for a low stakes test or quiz. The focus for the test / quiz will be to support pupil retention of knowledge taught.
2. A piece of reading homework related to the subject. This piece of reading homework could have a series of questions for pupils to answer.
3. An extended piece of written homework. This could be an exam style question.

All subjects will look to set homework on a weekly basis. In most cases, pupils would be expected to spend 30-45 minutes on each piece of work.

What happens if homework is not completed?

- Pupils will receive a P3 – lunchtime detention
- Regular incompleteness will result in a staff member contacting you to discuss any issues
- Regular incompleteness will also be reflected in the pupils’ effort grade and the ‘Homework’ barrier to learning flagged will be identified in the grade capture that is reported to parents.

We will of course work together to address any barriers that are impacting on your child’s homework and if you have homework concerns, please contact your child’s House Tutor in the first instance.

GL Assessments for pupils in Year 7 - 10

Pupils in Years 7 - 10 will be taking a number of online tests focusing on English and mathematics week commencing **Tuesday 20 & Monday 26 September**. The purpose of these tests is to support us to better understand any specific strengths or areas of development for each pupil. It may be, that as a result of these tests, we will offer additional support in a small group or on a 1:1 basis.

The nature of these tests mean that **it is not possible** for pupils to prepare for them by revising. Pupils will be provided with detailed information about these tests next week.

Week commencing 20 September			
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7 Periods 1-3	Year 8 Periods 1-3	Year 9 Periods 1-3	Year 10 Periods 1-3
Week commencing 26 September			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 7 Periods 1-3	Year 8 Periods 1-3	Year 9 Periods 1-3	Year 10 Periods 1-3

Year 7 – Street Wise presentation

On Friday 23 September, Year 7 will observe a professional drama performance called Street Wise during period 1. The performance is a road safety educational performance.

Site

As mentioned in previous newsletters, there is an increased focus on site security and health and safety during our new build. We have employed Graham, a security guard, to assist us including supervising our main gate which is locked throughout the school day to avoid issues with heavy plant and machinery. Additional fencing will be erected at the end of our car park next week.

SEND

Our weekly SEND clinic reopens on Thursday, 22 September 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Please email lisa.maudsley@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk to book a 15 minute appointment if you wish to discuss your child or if you have any queries or concerns.

Mental health and wellbeing

World suicide day was on 10 September. If you're worried someone might be experiencing suicidal thoughts – advice, provided by professionals, is that you are encouraged to ask them directly.

Asking someone if they're suicidal won't make things worse. Evidence shows it could protect them.

If someone is feeling suicidal, it might be hard to get through to them. They might be distant or distracted or feel disconnected from the world and their own emotions. They might not respond right away. But asking someone directly if they're having suicidal thoughts can give them permission to tell you how they feel.

If someone does let you know that they are having suicidal thoughts, always take them seriously. You don't have to be an expert, just being there to listen and showing you care can help them work through what's going on. Let them know they're not a burden and there's always someone they can turn to – whether it's a family member or friend, or a 24/7 helpline like Samaritans.

It's OK to ask about suicidal thoughts. It could save a life. For more information and guidance, please visit www.papyrus-uk.org/

Reading corner

This year, we are continuing to use Bedrock Vocabulary as part of our whole school reading strategy. Information on what Bedrock is, how it works and the expectations of pupils are outlined below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Newsham, Assistant Principal, who is our whole school reading lead: amy.newsham@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk

What is Bedrock?

Bedrock Learning is an online platform which teaches academic vocabulary through original fiction and non-fiction and develops literacy for reading, writing and oracy in every area of the curriculum

and beyond. It uses a range of interactive activities to help pupils to master the meanings of words in context, whilst enjoying reading a wide range of texts on all manner of topics.

How does it work?

When a user first logs into Bedrock, they complete a quick vocabulary quiz to determine their current level of understanding. This means Bedrock is entirely personalised to each pupil. Pupils then complete a pre-reading test to determine the vocabulary in the upcoming text which they need to learn – so no time is wasted on words they already know. The next part involves reading texts and learning word definitions. This is followed by a test to check which words have been mastered. All sections feature audio of words and complete texts so pupils can listen along and hear the pronunciation of the words they are learning.

How and when do pupils use Bedrock?

All pupils have been given a Bedrock username and password and they have written this in their planners. They have logged on and completed the initial quiz in English lessons so all pupils are familiar with the programme. Bedrock can be accessed on any device using the 'quick links' page of the school website. Bedrock also has a free app which can be downloaded to smartphones, tablets and even games consoles.

English homework is set each week to achieve at least 20 points using Bedrock. When pupils log in, they can see their current points at the top of the dashboard. Of course, the more points gained, the more vocabulary learned. It is best for pupils to do little and often, as the brain can only learn so much new vocabulary in one go. Homework runs from Monday to Sunday so pupils can complete their Bedrock work whenever is best for them - we suggest at least two sessions.

Rewarding Bedrock progress

We celebrate Bedrock success each week in the parental bulletin with the names of pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 who make the greatest improvement and complete the most topics. We also award vouchers each half term for those pupils. Bedrock is all about progress so, no matter the starting point, every pupil has the chance to improve their vocabulary as long as they work hard. Our first celebration of Bedrock success will be next Friday.

The Bay Learning Trust Literary Canon

This week, all pupils have been introduced to the 'Bay Learning Trust Literary Canon' through assemblies led by Miss Newsham and during 'drop everything and read' form time. The Literary Canon is a selection of books that all pupils will read together in their form groups.

Through the Bay Learning Trust Literary Canon, we aim to:

- highlight the significant value and importance of reading to our pupils, parents and staff
- develop pupils' reading abilities and strategies to further support reading for pleasure and being able to access the curriculum effectively
- provide challenging texts both in content, vocabulary and themes that will further develop pupils' reading skills, future reading habits and them holistically as individuals who can engage with the wider world and empathise with others
- develop pupils' cultural capital by offering texts which are outside of their 'known' world, allowing pupils to explore other cultures, situations and experiences
- promote a joy and love for reading to both our pupils and staff.

The books pupils are reading this term are:

Year 7: 'A Series of Unfortunate Events' by Lemony Snicket

Year 8: 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Year 9: 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' by Mark Haddon

Year 10: 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee

Year 11: 'The Dark Lady' by Akala



Key dates for the Autumn term:

W/C 20 September	GL assessments Year-7-10
23 September	Year 7 'Street Wise' assembly re. Road Safety
W/C 26 September	GL assessments Year-7-10
6 October 2022	HPV Vaccinations (Year 8 and 9)
7 October 2022	School Closed for pupils
21 October 2022	Open Mic event at lunchtime
24 October 2022	School closed for half-term holiday
2 November 2022	School re-opens
W/C 14 November 2022	Year 11 Mock examinations
W/C 21 November 2022	Year 11 Mock examinations
1 December 2022	Year 11 Achievement Evening (2021/22 cohort)
15 December 2022	Progress Cards issued for Year 7 –11
16 December 2022	School closes for Christmas at 1.15 pm

Pupil praise

Congratulations to Halton House for receiving the most praise points last week.

1. Halton	1443
2. Clougha	1380
3. Storey	1350
4. Lune	1240

Congratulations to the following pupils who had the most praise points in the last week:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Scarlett H	Leonardo D	Ibrahim S	Zack C	Jaden O
Hayden D-L	Jesse B	Kaan G	Vaughn P-E	Benjamin M
Gideon L	Quaneisha Y	Mia S	Toby H-I	Leaf R
Alexander S	Ollie P-P	Maggie A	Shane H	Alfie A
Leyla B	Yasaman G	Kayla D	Davis T	Adam R

Attendance

Well done to the following forms for having the highest attendance last week:

Year 7: Storey

Year 8: Clougha

Year 9: Clougha

Year 10: Halton 2

Year 11: Halton

Special praise goes to the following pupils:

Year 7

Logan C, Alexander S and Cherry T for their help in their PSHE lesson assisting Miss Morris.

Year 8

Felix Y and Lewis B- well done on a fantastic week settling into school. Felix and Lewis' efforts have been noticed by a number of teachers this week. Well done.

Well done to **Rowan G and Daniel M** who have settled back well to the school year. They have shown commitment in their work and they demonstrate the true values of our school each and every day.

Dillan W has made an absolutely incredible start to RE, excelling with contributions to class discussions and trying hard with his work. Well done.

Year 9

Thank you to **Kayla D, Maggie A, Cameron-Rose O** and **Aimee M** for their continuing help this year supporting break time duties.

Thank you to **Charlie M** for his community spirit and welcoming new pupils into school this year.

Ibrahim S recognised for his efforts with Bedrock Vocabulary.

Caleb C has made a great start to Year 9 History asking good questions and making valuable contributions to class discussions.

Lexi-Lee W and **Scarlett H** for their commitment and efforts in science. Lexi-Lee has shown real improvements in her commitment to the topic and **Scarlett** has shown dedication in her contribution to class discussions and book presentation. She is even researching information on the topic outside of the lesson and sharing this with me in class which is wonderful to see. Well done from Miss Towner.

Year 10

Mimosa T created a fantastic piece of English work for Miss Hayes. Mimosa completed several pages off work which had brilliant presentation and even better quality.

Jack S has tried and understood grade 5 work in maths. This is extremely challenging work which Jack has worked hard on.

Jack C has begun the year really well showing improved attendance and punctuality. Jack has demonstrated his commitment requesting extra work to complete – well done Jack.

Miss Newsham has been particularly impressed with the work of **Primose M-D, Luke G-M, Lucy B, Mimosa T** and **Tyler P** this week. They have all made some fantastic inferences about the difficulties of being a nanny.

Primrose M-D has made an excellent start to Central Lancaster High School, in particular in drama where she has formed good relationships with her peers and demonstrated confident performance skills already - well done.

Alfie F performed in an informal drama performance with success this week demonstrating confident drama skills and entertaining the audience with his comedic response and timing – well done Alfie.

Mr Auger has been delighted with the way that 10C have started their GCSE History course. He has been particularly impressed with the books of **Katie T, James WR** and **Tyler Y**. There have been excellent contributions to discussions too from **Stanley B, Connor B** and **Tyler P**. Keep up the great work!

Year 11

Congratulations to the Year 11 dance group who performed their lyrical dance assessment on Thursday.

Nancy W has demonstrated true commitment to Physics, she is polite and positive and a pleasure to teach, a very capable pupil who continues to grow in confidence.

Abby D has shown that Physics seems to come very naturally to her, she has excelled at the calculations, sometimes being one of the first to finish the work – well done!

Miss Newsham has been really impressed with **Tia H, Thinzar K, Jay R, Asa S** and **Paige D** in her classes due to their commitment to their learning throughout this week.

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.



Mr J Cowper
Principal