

Dear Parent/Carer

**Parent/Carer newsletter: Friday 7 January 2022**

**Happy New Year!**

We hope you have had a safe and restful break. It is wonderful to see our young people return and they have settled back into our daily routines really well. Many thanks for your ongoing support to ensure your child is punctual, wearing the correct school uniform and is equipped with the correct stationary.

**Staffing updates**

At Christmas, we said goodbye to Mr D Chapman, Mr L Mackie, Mr Wiggins, Miss T Bartlett and Mrs F Suleman who are pursuing new opportunities. We thank them for all of their commitment and hard work and wish them well for their futures.

We welcome Miss S Livesey who joins our science department and Mrs Wynne within our finance department. Mr M Auger has been appointed as Vice Principal with responsibility for Curriculum and Outcomes. Mr Auger is also a teacher of History.

**Year 9 options and parents evening**

We have taken the decision to delay these two events until later in the term. We are mindful that, with the ever changing picture regarding Covid, we may not be able to welcome you into school to have face to face conversations with Heads of Department. We believe this may hinder you and your child in making informed decisions regarding which subjects to choose. In addition, we want to maximise the opportunity for your child to study their broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible, given the disruption throughout years 7 and 8, again, to support informed decisions to be made.

We will send out an options booklet before half term which will outline the courses on offer and details about the specific subjects in order for you to start thinking about potential options choices where we will also confirm the revised dates of both evenings.

If you have any queries, please email Mr Auger: [mauger@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mauger@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk)

**Year 11 PPE exams**

Year 11 will sit their next set of PPEs in the weeks either side of the February holiday, week commencing 7 February and the week commencing 21 February. Teachers will be working with Year 11 pupils to prepare them for these exams throughout the coming weeks and our intention is to start after school revision sessions from the week beginning 17 January. Please encourage your child to engage with the revision activities and establish a routine of good revision habits at home.

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Materials to support revision will be posted on Class Charts by subject teachers. The timetable of examinations will follow in the week commencing 17 January.

Although every current indication suggests that examinations will take place in the summer, the government has also instructed schools to plan for a contingency where grades are awarded by schools. If summer exams do not take place, these exams will form part of the evidence base used by teachers to award grades.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Auger: [mauger@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:mauger@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk)

## **Charity**

On our last day, we had our none uniform day which had a Christmas Jumper theme. We also ran our reverse advent calendar for the Morecambe Bay foodbank. Many thanks for your support with these and other charity events throughout the Autumn term. Please see an article that was in the Lancaster Guardian over the Christmas break:

<https://www.lancasterguardian.co.uk/education/lancaster-students-round-off-year-with-support-for-morecambe-bay-foodbank-3497314>

## **Covid updates**

### Face coverings

There have been a number of changes in government guidance which impacts on schools. Pupils are now required to wear face coverings in the classroom as well as inside communal areas unless they are exempt for medical reasons. Pupils have responded really well this week and it is pleasing to see everyone taking responsibility for their own and others wellbeing. Face coverings need to be plain blue or black. We have a number of disposable masks that can be sourced via House Tutors or student reception. We encourage the use of fabric coverings as these can be regularly washed. If your child is exempt, please ensure you have contacted their Head of Year and we will provide them with an exemption card.

### Testing

Can we encourage you to test your child at least twice weekly – Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Lateral Flow Test (LFT) kits are available through school and pupils can collect these at a lunchtime from student reception.

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

### Isolation

A person testing positive may only have to isolate for 7 days. This applies if a negative LFT is reported on day 6 and then 24 hours later on day 7 and the person doesn't have a high temperature. After the second negative test and assuming there is no high temperature, the isolation period ends and pupils can return to school. If one or both of the two tests is positive or there remains a high temperature then the isolation period remains 10 days.

## Close contacts

Contact tracing continues to be undertaken by NHS track and trace. Persons under the age of 18 years and 6 months or who are fully vaccinated do not need to isolate if they have been in close contact with someone testing positive as long as they are not positive or displaying symptoms. Close contacts are encouraged to take a LFT each day for a seven day period from being in close contact.

## Vaccinations

Young people aged 12 to 15 in England are now being offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at a minimum of 12 weeks from the first dose, following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Parents can book vaccinations for their child, if aged 12 or over, through the [NHS booking system](#).

## **Preventative measures in school**

Please find a link to our risk assessment: <https://www.lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk/covid-19> . In essence, the main preventative measures we are taking in school, on a daily basis, to minimise transmission are:

- Face coverings to be worn in communal areas by the whole school population
- Face coverings to be worn in the classroom by pupils
- Increased ventilation – windows and doors open. We have CO2 monitors in place to check on the air quality
- Good hygiene – promotion of regular hand washing and use of hand sanitizer
- Good hygiene – promoting Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- Regular cleaning of the school site
- Promotion of regular testing

If you have any queries, please reference the government guidance through this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

## **SEND**

Our weekly SEND clinic reopens on Thursday, 13 January 4-6pm.

Please email [levans@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:levans@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk) to book a 15min appointment if you wish to discuss your child or if you have any queries of concerns.

Homework Club reopens on Wednesday, 12 January 3.05-4pm in S5.

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

'**Action for happiness**' is an app that can be downloaded to your phone on the app store or through google play. This app will give you daily tips as well as access to a range of free wellbeing seminars and workshop that can be accessed online.

## Music department update

Our trip to see School of Rock in Manchester on Tuesday was absolutely fantastic and our pupils were, once again, a credit to our school. Thank you to Mrs Spence, Mr Moore, Miss Timperley and Mrs Middleton for arranging the visit and accompanying our pupils on the evening.



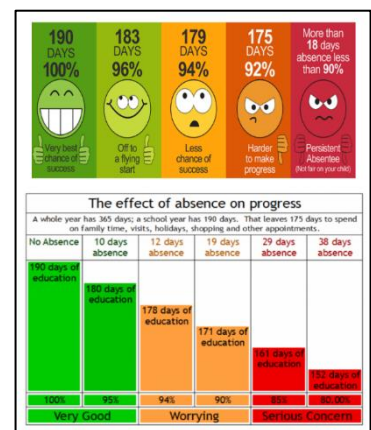
**Instrumental lessons** will resume next week for individual peripatetic lessons. If you would like your child to sign up for lessons, please contact Mrs Spence: [rspence@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:rspence@lancasterhigh.lancs.sch.uk)

Lunchtime **music clubs** will resume next week – we look forward to seeing pupils return and if any new pupils would like to come along, please come to the music room.

## Attendance

In school, we have a target of 97% for all pupils. As previously mentioned, we fully appreciate and acknowledge the challenges we currently face but please ensure your child attends school and is punctual when well enough to do so.

If you or your child is struggling with any issues that are affecting attendance, please contact your child's House Tutor or Head of Year.



## Key Dates for Parents this Half Term

- Monday 10 January: Year 9 Arts Award pupil animation workshop at Lancaster & Morecambe College
- Monday 10 January: Year 10 PE and IT exams
- Thursday 13 January: Year 11 music re-sit exam
- Thursday 13 January: Flu vaccinations catch up
- Monday 17 January: Year 9 Arts Award music technology workshop at Lancaster & Morecambe College
- Tues 1 - Fri 4 Feb: National Apprenticeship Week activities in school
- Monday 7 February: Year 11 PPEs exams begin
- **Friday 11 February: 3.05pm break for February half term**

## Praise

Congratulation to Clougha house for receiving the most praise points in the last week of the Autumn term.

1. Clougha 967
2. Halton 626
3. Lune 719
4. Storey 561

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
Lois-Taya R	Maggie A	Ruby B	Lacey S	Elsa D'S
Chloe H	Ola A	Manot A	Finlay B	Ruby W-M
Reuben T	Demi A	Riley A	Oliver N	Lilly P
Nawaf A	Edith M	Asya A	Andrew H	Izzy M
Freya P	Caitlin S	Ophelia C	Misti L	Sam S

In addition, well done to the following pupils:

Well done to **Ben K** Y7 for confident and knowledgeable answers in our new PSHE topic this week.

**Connor L** Y9 drama scored highly in his end of term Epic Theatre assessment this week demonstrating correct answers which he was confident to share with the class; well done.

**Ella R** Y9 Excellent work in drama on the theatre production unit. Well done Ella.

In Year 9, well done to **Bailee-Mae M** for excellent demonstration of her "presenting" voice when sharing her ideas in English lessons this week. It is lovely to hear your views, Bailee-Mae.

In Year 10 congratulations to **Zak H** and **Charlie K** for using the top tips when responding to exam-style questions in English Language. You were both really engaged!

In Year 10 Literature Miss Timperley would like to praise **Hassan A**, **Amber B**, **Freddie G** and

**Paige S** - you each demonstrated superb knowledge in this week's lessons and it was lovely to see you making cross-curricular links.

Also making superb connections in English between War Poetry and their history lessons were Year 9 pupils **Connor B, Muhammed E, Mia M, Hayden R** and **Kaitlyn S**. Well done!

Well done to **Gabriel R-S** and **Jethro K** in Year 9 who gave really insightful contributions in RE regarding religious views on relationships.

### **Attendance**

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

Year 7: Storey 1

Year 8: Halton

Year 9: Storey

Year 10: Clougha and Lune

Year 11: Halton

### **Food corner**

This week has not seen any cooking practicals however, all years have been reviewing their previous dishes and looking at how they can improve.

Next week, year 7 will be making the 'Simple stir-fry' detailed below. This is a great recipe, straight forward to follow, packed with flavour and yet notorious and healthy. Please have a go at home, the vegetables listed are only a suggestion so please use whatever you have to hand.

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/simple-stir-fry>

Have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Cowper  
Acting Principal