



LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is my pleasure to write to you today about the extremely positive start that students have made to the beginning of the school year. We have welcomed our new Year 7 cohort who have made a fantastic start to their LECA journey and we are all appreciating their love for learning, smiles and door opening! I hope you understood that it did not feel appropriate to send out my new term greetings at a time when we were all processing such unexpected and sad news at the end of last week.

Thank you for your support with ensuring that your children have returned to school with such high uniform expectations and are wearing it with pride. As with all schools, we face the challenges of shoe manufacturers who design and produce items marketed as "school shoes" which don't meet most schools' uniform policies due to their "sneaker" or "trainer" style features. Our thanks to the families who have worked with us to source formal school shoes that are in line with the policy expectations; it is greatly appreciated.

Increasing our students' academic potential

During first day back assemblies, I shared with students how this term signals an important shift in our school improvement journey to ensure that, in line with our whole school vision, "*All students reach their academic potential*". To support this, we have made a number of key changes to help students this year which we are excited to also share with you:

Academic Progress Review afternoon (Thursday 20th October 2022) – All families will be invited to make an appointment to meet with your child's form tutor to discuss how your child has started the year in terms of their attitude to learning, rewards, attendance, behaviour and any other pastoral matters that you would like to discuss. We are hoping that this will help you build a partnership with their tutor to support your child's academic progress and feedback any concerns or strategies that you feel would be of value to share with their teachers to maximise their progress and reduce any potential barriers to their learning. Please note that to facilitate these appointments for every child there will be a shortened school day from 12:20pm.

Home learning attitude to learning descriptors – Staff will report separately regarding your child's progress with their lessons and home learning.

Tutor time programme – This now includes an academic curriculum. KS3 students study an accelerated reader programme which tracks their reading age progress and provides them with reading age appropriate material. KS4 students study a Vespa Mindsets curriculum targeted at helping students' motivation and skills as independent learners.

Extended school day provision – From Tuesday 20th September, we have widened our before and after school provision. From 8am, students can now access our **free Breakfast Club** in the canteen, where they will be supervised by members of our education support team in case they would like to ask questions about their learning and/or have a conversation to help them get organised or feel less anxious about the day ahead. Students who would like to attend,

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need to enter through main school reception. **Please note that this will now be the only part of the site open from 8am and the main gates will open at 8:15am.**

From 3-4pm, students can now access our **free Home Learning Club** in the learning resources centre, where they can use the library resources (including computers) to complete their home learning and get extra support from members of our education support team (if they would like it). We hope that many students will utilise and benefit from this provision over the academic year.

LECA events to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II, HRH

We were extremely proud of the deep respect that all members of the LECA community have shown towards the planned events to mark this special and historic occasion. Although there was a great deal of sadness, our special assembly last Friday allowed us to celebrate the life of this incredible woman and ended with a large round of applause from students and staff. In line with DFE guidance to all schools and academies, we will of course be closed Monday 19th September 2022.

We continue to welcome contributions from parents and students to the LECA book of condolences and include the link here:
<https://bit.ly/HMQEIIcondolences>

We hope that as many of our community as possible can add their contributions to this book that we hope to print to keep as a historical record of the community's response to this special occasion.

Events for parents

We will be holding our first coffee morning Wednesday 21st September from 9:30-10:30am. This is an informal opportunity for you to meet with me and other parents to discuss how we can continue to improve the school and the communications you receive. We welcome new parents to join us but it will also be lovely to see familiar faces. Our first parent working party will take place Monday 26th September from 6-7pm to discuss our uniform policy for the next academic year (23/24) and the draft version of a revised anti-bullying protocol. Please do email Jo Hedges if you are interested in joining this important group.

Safeguarding team

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our LECA Safeguarding team. They are based in the Safeguarding hub and work with students, their families and staff to ensure that our students feel safe and able to make positive choices to support their overall health and wellbeing.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Laura Elliott, Associate Assistant Principal and can be contacted via email on laura.elliott@lecacademy.org.uk.

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDLs) are members are our Pastoral Managers who are allocated to support students in specific year groups:

- Mrs Simms (Year 7) vicki.simms@lecacademy.org
- Mrs Parsons-Mayle (Years 8/9) jade.parsonsmayle@lecacademy.org
- Mr Seaton (Years 10/11). tom.seaton@lecacademy.org

If you have any questions or would like to organise a meeting, please do make contact with these staff.

Progress Leaders

We would encourage all families to liaise with their child's form tutor as the first contact if you have any questions or concerns. However, we wanted to take this opportunity to communicate our Progress Leaders who have strategic oversight for each year group:

- Mr Townsend (Year 10/11) Shaun.Townsend@lecacademy.org
- Mr Mortlock (Years 8/9) James.Mortlock@lecacademy.org
- We are also grateful to Ms Jacklin who is fulfilling the role of Acting Progress Leader for Year 7 in Mr Richardson's absence. Chloe.Jacklin@lecacademy.org



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We are also delighted to announce that, following an external recruitment process, Ms Hayward has been appointed to the permanent role of Inclusion Manager.

Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Hunstanton (from Mr Smith, Head of Humanities faculty)

On Wednesday we took 45 very excited Year 11 Geographers to Hunstanton to complete their fieldwork. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and a really positive learning environment outside of the classroom – My first field trip since lockdown and for many students their first since year 7. We had a great day completing surveys in the town and looking at the different sea defences. We even managed to grab some chips and an ice cream!

PE Fixtures this week (from Ms Jacklin, PE Teacher)

This week we took four Year 8 and 10 Netball and Football teams to Thomas Clarkson for our first away fixture this term and we couldn't be prouder of the effort and commitment shown during their games. The Year 8 Netball Team won their match after which the umpire commended their sportsmanship and named Megan M as the woman of the match. Our Year 10 Netball team showed great persistence in their game securing them a win where Summer was named woman of the match. A special shoutout to Anujin and Bella who stepped up to play on the opposing team when they were short on players, showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. Despite a loss for the Year 8 Football team, they improved throughout their game and showed great teamwork and resilience; Ryan T earned the man of the match for his performance. A big congratulations to the Year 10 Football team who scored their first ever goal securing them a draw in the game and earning two man of the match awards which were given to Daniel and Ralph.

Privacy notices - Please note that we attach revised privacy notices for parents and students which we attach to this communication and are now available to download on our website.

And finally, I would like to take this opportunity to formally apologise for the significant technical problems experienced with Go4Schools which led to so many confusions and anxiety regarding timetables. We have investigated these problems and have taken steps/lessons learned to ensure that we do not experience the same issues again.

We hope that your children have enjoyed their start to the school year and are feeling as positive as we are the academy's rapid improvement journey. We also wish our Silver Duke of Edinburgh students every success on their first Canoe Expedition this weekend and look forward to hearing how they get on!

Wishing your families a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Lauren Phillips (Ms)

Principal

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