



LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Monday 6th Feb 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Musical sound system

After months of planning, we launched our new musical sound system at LECA this week and it has already had a noticeably positive impact on academy life. Lessons are starting much more punctually and lesson changeovers are much calmer. My thanks to all the staff who have had such a high level of presence in corridors this week to help support students to get used to the new routines. We will keep this going to support this. Next half term we will gather feedback from staff, students and parents regarding this key development. From our observations, Year 7 students are the most keen to get to lessons and Year 11 students appear to be the most relaxed! Congratulations to all those students who have improved their punctuality this week and are making the most of those "Do Now" starts to lessons to help immediately engage in learning as they enter the classroom.

Year 11 updates

It has been a particularly busy week for Year 11 students who get several mentions below. The students who participated in the Sports leadership assessments, Business drop down days and those who took the Health & Social Care exam on Friday conducted themselves impeccably – true LECA ambassadors well done! It felt very strange opening to only Year 11 on Wednesday but, for those who did attend, they were treated to walking talking mocks for both English Language and Literature components. My sincere thanks to Mrs Starling, who used her knowledge as a senior examiner and team leader for AQA to guide Year 11 through these papers and help students feel supported ahead of the final mock exams which start on Monday. My thanks also to Mrs Radcliffe who has started our pilot lunchtime poetry lectures this week – it was great to see some extremely well annotated poetry anthologies and enthusiastic students attending. We hope more students will participate in this fantastic opportunity.

Community news

This week we received news from our uniform supplier that they are increasing their uniform costs from 27th March 2023 (*further details below and prices attached*). We appreciate that these continue to be financially challenging times and a gentle reminder that help is available with uniform costs for those families who need it. Please do contact Jo Hedges if you need help with this (Jo.Hedges@lecacademy.org). We were delighted to receive a kind donation of £500 this week from Littleport Townlands Charity to help support our vulnerable families and are incredibly grateful for their support. Unfortunately, I have had to re-schedule the Principal Coffee Morning planned for this week to Thursday 23rd February but look forward to meeting with parents then. It is always lovely to see both the regular and new faces!

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Covid-19

Last week we saw an increased number of COVID cases resulting in both staff and student absences. A gentle reminder that the [latest guidance](#) for children says that they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if they have symptoms of Covid-19 and they either:

- Have a high temperature
- Do not feel well enough to go to school

They can go back to school when they feel better or do not have a high temperature.

A reminder that symptoms of Covid-19 can include:

- A high temperature or shivering
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling tired or exhausted
- Aching body
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Blocked or runny nose
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick or being sick

If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19, has a high temperature and/or has tested positive for Covid-19 they should stay at home.

Childrens' Mental Health Week 6th-10th Feb, Mrs Elliott, Safeguarding Lead

In recognition of this important National event, Progress Leaders are leading assemblies last and some this week to raise awareness of mental health and support available for our students. In PSHE lessons this week, students will also create postcards which will be shared throughout the school as a way of connecting the theme for the event this year. In addition, Nina Bradley, Senior Clinician for the Ely and Littleport Mental Health Support Team (MHST) has asked us to share the attached newsletter with you which provides an introduction to what they will be offering. There is some useful information and tips around Mental Health and well-being.

Overdue books, Mrs Burley, Learning Resources Officer

Over the next few weeks, correspondence will be coming out to parents/carers who have children with long term overdue, lost or damaged library books. Your child/children should have already been reminded by their tutor, English Teacher and Librarian every week and they will also have received an email reminder. It is important that all resources are renewed or returned on time so other students can use them. If you could please help your child/children to check at home and return their overdue books to the returns box in the LRC. Thanks in advance for your support.

Year 11 Poetry Lectures, Mrs Radcliffe, Faculty Lead for Communications

The first week of the Poetry Lectures has started – it has been lovely to be able to talk about individual poems at lunch, revisiting some key areas of knowledge and also posing some bigger questions. Lectures continue this week, in Mrs Radcliffe's room at lunchtime, and I'd love to see more student faces!

Year 11 Business workshops, Mr Towle, Faculty Lead for Maths, Business and IT

The two day GCSE business event was fantastic - students were superb and the external board approved examiner said several times how impressed he was with our students.

Year 11 Sports Studies leadership assessments, Mr Mortlock, Acting Curriculum Lead for PE

Quality has been very high with lots of high grades and KS3 classes have really enjoyed them - well done to all students involved!



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Uniform Price increases from 27th March 2023, Christine King, Area Sales Manager, Total Clothing

As part of the Banner Group, the industry's largest manufacturer and supplier of school uniform, we have put a huge amount of effort into cost control throughout our supply chain, to find ways of suppressing the inevitable increases we are seeing in operating costs such as energy prices and wages. Inevitably we have had to increase prices for 2023 and these will come into effect from Monday 27th March 2023. Please see your attached price list for 2023. Our Team have been committed to providing you with school uniform at affordable and competitive pricing, along with great quality that lasts wash after wash and we will continue to offer this over the coming months.

Forthcoming events for parents:

Thursday 23rd February – Principal Coffee Morning (9:30-11:00am) – moved from 8th Feb

Thursday 2nd March – Year 7 Parents Evening

Wednesday 15th March – Principal Coffee Morning (9:30-11:00am)

And finally, this week's special mention comes from Mrs Freear who spotted one of our students in a local production of Beauty and the Beast last weekend. Mrs Freear writes, "*Eva had a very prominent role and was fantastic with great comedy timing!*" Congratulations to Eva in Year 8. We hope to see you treading the boards at LECA soon!

We hope that you and your families enjoyed a calm and restful and weekend!

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Phillips (Ms)
Principal

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