



# LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY

## An Active Learning Trust School

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen calm and purposeful lessons taking place within the academy amidst the challenges of the National student protests sparked by social media, the NEU Teachers' strike on Wednesday and discussion regarding the impending re-brokerage. In addition, speculation about which staff are leaving at Easter spread through the academy at the start of the week which inevitably led to an unsettled atmosphere.

I am concerned that the cumulative impact of all these factors is starting to pose a challenge to the stability that we are working so hard to try and provide for the community. Notably, we have unfortunately seen an increase in students' rudeness to staff this week and defiance. In order to support and reassure students, I will be leading assemblies this week explaining what we know currently about what the re-brokerage to the Eastern Learning Alliance is likely to mean for them. I have also reiterated with staff the importance of not engaging in conversations about staff changes as I always like the opportunity to provide confirmation of staff leavers and joiners at the same time to provide reassurance wherever possible regarding continuity of subject specialist teaching. Once this has been finalised, I aim to share this sooner than I usually would in the hope that it will calm the current uncertainty.

### New Defiance code on GoForSchools

From today, we have added a new code on Go4Schools for staff to log any incidents of defiance (students not following staff instructions) so we can monitor this concerning conduct more closely. Since my arrival, you have kindly offered me your unrelenting support. Please can I emphasise the importance of all parents working supportively with the school to discuss any such incidents with your son or daughter to enable my staff to prioritise their time in checking learning rather than student conduct. To support this launch, I am delighted to announce that a number of experienced senior leaders from Eastern Learning Alliance will be joining us from today to provide additional capacity and support during the extended absence of Ms McCleary and Mr Jones. Further details regarding these additional senior leaders will be shared with the community in due course.

### Events for parents this week

On Monday, we welcomed parents for the opportunity to meet with representatives from the Eastern Learning Alliance and ask their questions. This morning we will be sending out a separate communication directly from the new Trust outlining how you can access the minutes from this meeting and communicate with them directly. On Thursday, we welcomed Year 7 families for their annual academic review evening and were delighted to hear the unanimously positive feedback from students and parents. We are so pleased that this year group have made such a positive start to their LECA education. I also met with some families where we have been working closely together to improve their child's behaviour and was hugely impressed by the progress that these students had made due to the close monitoring and support provided by their Progress Leader Ms Jacklin who deserves public recognition for the way in which she had worked with these families.

Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy,  
Littleport, Cambridgeshire,  
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### **Student protests**

On Monday morning, I met with a group student representatives from those who were involved in a planned student protest at LECA. I was pleased that we were able to discuss their concerns in a calm and meaningful way rather than causing the disruption that occurred in several other local schools. As a result, I have asked our Site Manager Mr Winters to investigate alternative toilet doors and will be working with all stakeholders to review the current Uniform Policy for September 2023. I emphasised how important it was that they passed concerns honestly to Student Council members for their fortnightly meetings.

### **Year 9 Form the Future mentoring programme, Mrs Emmess, Assistant Principal**

Our year 9 mentoring programme has started well with our Form the Future volunteer, who supports a small group of year 9s for weekly sessions this half term. With an aim to providing careers information, guidance and support with their own personal development and careers journey, we hope that these students benefit from this additional opportunity.

### **Year 11 Elevate sessions, Mrs Emmess, Assistant Principal**

Year 11s took part in two one-hour study skills sessions to support them in preparing for their final few months at LECA. Sessions included Ace Your Exams and Memory & Mnemonics, delivered by Nick from Elevate Education. Students found the sessions very useful and felt that it provided them with a range of skills and they're more knowledgeable on how to better prepare for the exam period, as well as writing an exam. Students have fed back saying how much they enjoyed the sessions; Nick delivered inspirational sessions which have motivated the students to take action to better prepare for the exam period.

### **Year 11 Spanish Speaking & Listening exams, Ms Richardt, Curriculum Lead for MFL**

Last week we held our Spanish mocks speaking and listening exams, I wanted to tell you how proud, and impressed we were with how well they went. Please congratulate them! The students worked hard and tried their best. There is still work to do and we would appreciate your continued support in helping your child revise Spanish for the real exams. Year 11 have come a long way since September and an extra push will really make the difference in achieving good grades.

### **Year 11 and 10 GCSE Music collapsed day, Mr Dicks, Curriculum Lead for Music** - On Friday the 3rd March the GCSE students were involved in a music collapse day to focus on the composition and performance with a guest professional music educationalist. Year 11 students focused on completing their compositions from a selection of four briefs set by the exam board. They have chosen to compose the film score brief, a scene from a new production of "King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table". After lunch, they performed compositions and solo instrumental recitals to Year 10 students. I'd like to finish by saying how proud I am of these fine young musicians with their conduct, work ethic and adult and professional manner in which they undertook the tasks leaving our guest with a very high impression of our GCSE students.

### **Safeguarding update, Mrs Laura Elliott, Designated Safeguarding Lead**

We thought with the new half term underway it was a great opportunity to provide a current list of Who's Who within safeguarding/ student wellbeing.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Elliott

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Simms, Mr Seaton and Ms Phillips

Young Carers Champion: Mrs Minchin, Mrs Webb and Mrs Elliott

Anti-Bullying Lead: Ms McCleary

Domestic Abuse Lead: Mrs Elliott

Online Safety Lead for students: Mrs Elliott

Progress Leaders: Miss Jacklin (Yr. 7), Mr Mortlock (Yrs. 8&9) and Mr Townsend (Yrs. 10 & 11)

Pastoral Managers: Mrs Simms, Mr Seaton

Mental Health Lead for Students: Ms McCleary

Prevent Lead: Ms McCleary and Mrs Elliott



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We have had lots of exciting news already this half term including beginning a new project with Transforming Lives, meaning that we now work with 19 external agencies. Not only this but Ms Phillips and Mrs Elliott hosted a meeting with the Mental Health Support Team based in Ely and are pleased to share that they will be providing support for staff and students over the coming few months.

### Year 9 Options update

Mrs Starling will be sending a separate communication to Year 9 families regarding the revised timeline for the Year 9 options process but please see date for your diary for the launch event.

### Forthcoming events for parents:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Principal Coffee Morning (9:30-11:00am)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Proposed NEU Teacher Strikes

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 – Year 9 Options Launch evening (4:30 to 6pm)

We hope that you and your families had a restful and relaxing weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Phillips (Ms)  
**Principal**

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