



LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Monday 13th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we welcomed a number of visitors to the academy. My thanks to the superb Year 7 tour guides who showed round Year 6 families who had been allocated places for September 2023 Wednesday and Thursday morning. They were an absolute credit to the school and it was great to hear the positive feedback from the families who visited about the calm and purposeful learning that they watched. We also welcomed students from other local Secondary schools for a Year 7 and 8 Dodgeball tournament hosted by our impressive sports leaders. It was great to see them in these *Active Leader* roles and a pleasure to watch some of the action (and dodge some of the flying balls!)

Re-brokerage updates

Following events for staff and parents, I conducted assemblies for students in all year groups to help them understand who the Eastern Learning Alliance family of schools are, what the transfer is likely to mean for them and some of the key staff that they will see within the building. This seems to have settled a number of students' concerns but please do ask them to come and speak to us if they have any further questions at this point. Although we expect the legal transfer between Trusts to take place from 1st September 2023, from Monday, we welcomed senior leaders from other schools within the Eastern Learning Alliance, who will be joining us on a regular basis, to support the smooth transfer from one Trust to another. We are also delighted that Juliet Martin, a Level 6 qualified Guidance Advisor and Careers Leader from within the Trust, will be visiting LECA on a weekly basis to support our students. Initially, she will focus her time working with Year 11 students.

Behaviour updates from Monday

Thank you for your support last week with my concerns regarding student defiance and rudeness to staff; there has been a notable improvement in this area this week. To further tighten expectations and ensure that important learning time is not lost, from Monday 13th March 2023, if a student refuses to attend their lesson without permission from staff, we will issue a 1 day suspension. This has been explained clearly to students in assemblies and tutor time Friday. This week we will also be reviewing how effectively students issued with time out passes. I have also moved my office to the central glass panelled conference room which has greater visibility of the school site to help monitor these trends and provide support.

NEU strikes Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023

The National Education Union (NEU), the largest education union in the UK, has confirmed that further strikes will take place 15th and 16th March 2023. As for the previous strike, LECA will remain partially open for Year 11 and vulnerable students invited into school. The canteen will remain open for those students onsite. Students eligible for free school meals will be able to collect packed lunches after school Tuesday from the canteen.

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Vanhulle dance theatre workshops for Year 8, Mr Mortlock, Progress Leader for Year 8

On Friday, we had the Vanhulle dance theatre come in to deliver 2 dance workshop sessions to our Year 8 students. We were treated to a performance firstly of their production Olive Branch which focuses around solving conflict. The students then took part in some dance warm up games before learning a part of the dance sequence. A big thankyou to Laura and Olly who came in to deliver the workshops and engage our students to give them an experience of dance. If any students are interested in signing up please see the website Vanhulle Dance Theatre www.vanhulledancetheatre.co.uk or check their social media pages. We look forward to having a partnership with them in the future.

Year 9 Trip to BBC studios Norwich, Mrs Webb, Teacher of English/Reading & Oracy Lead

It was a privilege to be able to take a small group of some of LECA's keenest writers behind the scenes at the BBC East studios in Norwich. We were given a tour of the studios, focused talks by producers and journalists, and were even invited into the technical gallery to watch the lunchtime news go out live. The students' conduct was impeccable, and their perceptive questions and insightful contributions to discussions about ethics and scheduling made me very proud!

Update from the Religious Studies department, Mrs Wearing, Curriculum Lead for RE

The Religious Studies Department is delighted to announce that Jerry Bendall and the Newmarket District Youth for Christ Team will be dropping into RE lessons over the next few weeks to provide some exciting activities. Year 9 lessons will focus on forgiveness and reconciliation which is an important part of the 'Religion, Crime and Justice' unit of work. Year 7 will be studying the nature of God in particular the Holy Trinity. The department is very excited about this wonderful opportunity to extend students learning. We look forward to meeting the YFC team.

Year 7 & 8 Community Dodgeball competition, Mr Mortlock, Acting Curriculum Lead for PE

It was great to host the Secondary Schools community dodgeball competition aimed at those who succeed in PE but do not attend after school clubs. We saw a great turn out from the Isle of Ely schools with six teams competing. A special mention to our dodgeball leaders who were trained in December to lead these tournaments. They received fantastic feedback for the way they umpired the sessions but especially how they integrated all the players and coached them throughout. Another top performance in PE from our students.

Forthcoming events for parents:

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

Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March 2023 –NEU Teacher Strikes

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

And finally, on Monday 13th March, we welcome a team from the Active Learning Trust who will be reviewing the progress that we have made with supporting students' reading skills through staff training and our focused reading recovery programme.

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

Yours sincerely,



Lauren Phillips (Ms)
Principal