



LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Monday 27th Feb 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was good to see staff and students return this week refreshed from the half-term break with significantly reduced Covid-19 cases. My thanks to all the staff who supervised and ran sessions for Year 11 during that time. The Year 11 students I've spoken to were very positive about these opportunities and we had particularly strong attendance for Maths and English support which was great to see! We are now working on a programme for the first week of the Easter holidays and more information will follow for relevant families in due course.

Events for parents

This week it was lovely to meet with parents for our monthly open coffee morning and great to welcome some new faces. The majority of the conversation focused on the academy's re-brokerage to the Eastern Learning Alliance and it was useful to hear the key questions that parents would like answered so we can support students and parents with these. A gentle reminder that we have the event for parents this evening at 5-6:30pm where you will have the opportunity to ask representatives from the new Trust, including the CEO your questions in person. We look forward to welcoming as many families as possible. We had a similar event for staff on Thursday last week and it was extremely positive.

The other key question was about the Year 9 option process which we have understandably paused to facilitate further discussions with the new Trust about the curriculum and staffing model for September 2023. We will schedule an information evening and launch before the Easter holiday so students can think about their options before choosing them in April.

Assemblies this week

Assemblies this week were led by Progress Leaders focused on rewards. Following some initial consultation with students and staff, Mr Mortlock shared that we are keen to raise the profile of rewards and a number of new initiatives were suggested to include: Reward postcards, a weekly tutor time celebration of student achievements inside/outside school, house rewards, raffles for prize draws, more charity events and reward trips. He explained that all students will have the opportunity to speak to their tutor and student council representative over the next week to feedback ideas for discussion at the next round of Student Council meetings to create a more positive culture around the school.

Student protests

You may have read in the local and national media that over the past few weeks there have been a number of student protests about school toilet and skirt length rules fuelled by the social media platform TikTok. We believe last week these protests spread to Norfolk schools, some very close by. On Friday, we were made aware that there may be a LECA student whatsapp group discussing this topic and we would ask for your support in ensuring that learning and school life is not disrupted by behaviour of this nature. Mrs Emmess meets with the Student Council fortnightly and provides feedback to SLT for us to consider and action on a regular basis to ensure students' views are represented. Notably, these two issues have not been raised in this setting but, if students have concerns, I am really happy to meet with them to work with

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them in a calm, meaningful way and please do encourage them to come and speak to me directly or a member of the leadership team.

Exams update, Mrs Starling, Vice Principal

Friday saw the final PPE for Year 11, after two weeks of hard work and a focused approach. Teachers will be using these exams to inform the final weeks of teaching, up to the first exams in May. Year 10 PPEs will begin on March 20th. The timetable will be issued to student and parents later this week.

Strike update

Despite the possibility of talks on Saturday, it has been confirmed that the planned teacher strikes are going ahead this week and we will therefore only be open to Year 11 and vulnerable students. Following some queries, we will be re-issuing some remote learning opportunities for Years 7 to 10 to develop their learning but completion of these activities is not mandatory. Finally, if your child is in receipt of free school meals, please remind them to collect their lunch from the canteen at the end of Tuesday.

Forthcoming events for parents:

Monday 27th February – Eastern Learning Alliance presentation for parents (5:00pm) –

Thursday 2nd March – Year 7 Parents Evening

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

We hope that you and your families had a restful and relaxing weekend. We look forward to welcoming parents for the events Monday and Thursday this week.

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Phillips (Ms)
Principal