



LITTLEPORT AND EAST CAMBS ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

16th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have come to the end of a most unusual and challenging year and I am writing to inform you about some of the changes at LECA in September. Before I do, though, I'd like to say thank you to a few people.

Thank you to each and every member of my team for coping so brilliantly during the 'closure' and for adapting the way they teach and communicate so quickly to ensure that our students had no break in learning. It has not been easy but the measure of a great team is how they cope with rapid change. I hope you agree that they have been superb. But the teachers are just one part of the team and without the support team, they would not have been able to operate. From the site team to the admin team to the IT support, they have all worked so hard and I thank them all too.

Thank you to you! You have been amazing and one day we will look back and remember this time and hopefully you will have some positive memories from it. We know it's been difficult juggling work and domestic life while also 'home –schooling'. You didn't sign up for this! But you did support us wholeheartedly and we won't forget the hundreds of likes and comments on social media and positive emails we have received. Thank you so much for your support.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our brilliant students. What resilience they have shown; what determination to carry on. I am convinced that this experience will be the making of many of them. Thank you to you all - for trusting us and for working with us and for not giving up. You all deserve a fantastic summer – relax and enjoy and we will see you and the new Year 7s in September.

September

For ease of reference I have split this information into some key areas for you. You will note that some areas are only relevant to some year groups. **Please also note that when I refer to year groups I am referring to the year groups as they will be from September.** Finally, please be assured that the plans we are operating under have been created to fully comply with national government guidance.

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Operations – All Year Groups

- 1) We are operating in year group bubbles meaning that year groups will not mix throughout the school day. As such their start times and instructions are as follows:

School gates will open from **8:00am** and students will be required to wait outside on the rear playground in clearly marked year group bubbles. Staff will supervise this but it is **vital** that students arrive in their bubbles on time so they do not mix with other students. We ask for your ongoing and vigilant support with this.

Yr. 7 to enter school, sanitise hands and go to form rooms at 8:15 – 8:20am

Yr. 8 to enter school, sanitise hands and go to form rooms at 8:20 – 8:25am

Yr. 9 to enter school, sanitise hands and go to form rooms at 8:25 – 8:30am

Yr. 10 will enter the school via the main entrance from 8am, sanitise and will be able to sit in the dining hall until 8.30 when they will be called up to their tutor rooms

- 2) Lunchtimes will be staggered (starting with Year 7 at 12pm) meaning that areas can be cleaned between each sitting and the year groups do not cross. A full menu will be served but we will be using recyclable cartons and cutlery so we can use the outside space for eating.
- 3) Toilets and zoned teaching rooms have been assigned to each year group to limit cross contamination. Year 10 will also have their own staircase. A one-way system is also in place. This will all be explained to students in September
- 4) The end of the school day will be 3pm as normal but we will stagger the exit from the building as follows:

2:55pm – Year 7

3:00pm – Year 8

3:05pm – Year 9

3:10pm – Year 10

- 5) We will not allow visitors to the school without an appointment. Please call or email the school in advance if you need to make an appointment. **This is especially important in the morning as the main entrance is now being used for Year 10 students and we need to ensure they are safe.**
- 6) Currently we are not allowed to offer mixed enrichment groups after school, so a limited after school offer will be published in September.
- 7) We are proudly offering a **full, broad and balanced curriculum to all students and they will also benefit from a daily tutor time session.** We see this as vital to the students feeling as normal as possible under the circumstances.

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Start of Term

- 1) Monday 7th September - The first day of term is for **Year 7 only**.
- 2) Tuesday 8th September – This is for **Year 7 and Year 10 only**
- 3) Wednesday 9th September – **Open for all students**.

PE

- 1) To follow government guidance, if your child has PE on their timetable on a particular day, **they should come to school in their PE kit**. In adverse weather, they should also bring spare kit in their bags if at all possible.
- 2) **Year 7 students do not need to bring PE kits on the first day of school but should bring some trainers with them.**

Stationery and Equipment

- 1) **All students** should bring the following stationery and equipment with them **every day**. You will note some additions to the items listed in the Parent Handbook:
 - a) **Glue stick**
 - b) **Highlighters**
 - c) **Pen (+ a spare, blue or black ink only)**
 - d) **Green biro**
 - e) **Pencil**
 - f) **Ruler**
 - g) **Rubber**
 - h) **Calculator (The Casio FX83GTPlus)**
 - i) **Age-appropriate reading book**

The additions of a glue stick and highlighters is to limit cross contamination as much as possible. Where equipment or stationery is borrowed we will be asking students to wipe it down or wash it in hot soapy water (in the case of Art / DT equipment) before returning it into circulation.

Attendance

From September, attendance will be **compulsory** and as such all normal procedures will be in place. Please refer to the Parent Handbook and the Attendance page of the website.

COVID-19 Safety

Following government guidance, if we have a suspected COVID case at school, that student will be isolated and we will call home for them to be picked up. They will not be allowed to walk home. As with all current guidance we would then ask that your child is tested and if they are positive they should follow NHS instructions and isolate as normal. Testing can be booked here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/> and we do ask that all of our parents, carers, students and staff engage fully with this system. Ultimately, it could be the difference between staying open or being forced to close again.



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Thank you again for all your support this year. We rely so much on your help and next academic year will be no different. I know that you will help us make this a positive experience for your children and we look forward to working with you all in September.

Have a great summer.

Scott Gaskins

Principal, LECA