

EASTER NEWSLETTER



 [@baxter31](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Easter Newsletter, written at such a difficult time. As the country follows the rules of social distancing, LSA has been forced to close to support this effort. The last two weeks of school were incredibly difficult, with many staff and students self-isolating, eventually resulting in an earlier finish for year 9 and 10. We did not want this, but are so grateful to the parents in those years for their understanding and support.

I hope you will see from this, that despite the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in, we are still a wonderful school to be a part of, central to the local community. Whilst we all miss seeing each other on a daily basis, it is lovely to be able to share information, successes and stories with you. The aim of this newsletter is to share just how much is taking place, even as a school officially closed!

The Daily Business of School

Whilst the school is closed to the vast majority students, it is still open in new, different forms for some.

LSAChildcare has been in place for the children of Key workers and has been staffed by a rota of willing staff. These last two weeks will have allowed around 100 sifs off key work to take place. We are working closely with the families requiring this service and thank you for so many who have ensured safe, alternative provision.

LSAVirtualSchool has been established quickly to manage the demands of distance learning. A fully functioning remote learning on this scale is new for all of us. We have initially decided on a best way to make it work and have adopted a fair and realistic approach. It is important to take every opportunity to reinforce our online learning principles for the period after Easter:



- Please do not compare our provision to other schools.
- Do not expect students to learn vast quantities of new material. They won't.
- There is a need for negotiation at home about how it will all work.
- Trust that we will manage any catch up needed when the world returns to normal.
- Learning is not just about school. Any Learning that sparks enthusiasm or interest is excellent, which may come from a range of sources.

If in any doubt about what to do, please ask your child to read. When they have read, ask them what it was about and engage with them. Ask them questions. If children return to school having read more, they will be in a great position to learn.

All official school work will be communicated via SMHW. However, as we find other supplementary tasks, we may post these via our social media channels to support parents in keeping their children busy.

There are some excellent examples of successes within the LSAVirtualSchool later in this newsletter.

LSA in the community

This week, our science department made a donation to support the local NHS in their efforts to fight the Coronavirus and keep us safe. Nadine Downey and Liz Hill from our science department arranged to collect, clean and then deliver our supply of protective goggles to the Lytham St Annes Primary Care Network. We received a fantastic letter from Dr. Johnson who not only thanked us, but also expressed their pride at this gesture from the town's High School embodying the marvellous local spirit.

The technology department are also currently setting up the 3D printers to potentially provide protective masks to local hospitals. We will update you with this soon.

Communication

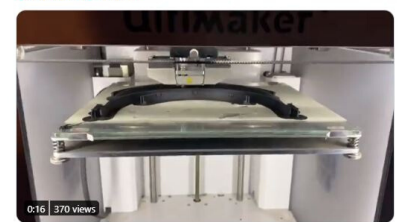
I am very aware that there have been many letters over the last few weeks as well as a range of text messages and emails. I realise there is a lot of information, but what is becoming clear, is the challenge of sharing information when we don't see everyone, all of the time!

Even though we are not in the building, we are making sure that our values of *Aspiration, Endeavour, Integrity and Respect* run through everything we do as a Virtual School as well.

Please keep checking our social media streams, as well as our school website for regular information and updates.



LSA D&T Dept @LSATechdept · 11h
First of many face shields being printed @lythamhigh. #SupportTheNHS.
@3dcrowduk @LSAFood



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School Values Update

The last two years have seen a lot of amazing work around the school values. They have been at the heart of everything we do and we see our students living these every day in school. As we get used to remote learning, we think our students can keep these values alive through:

Aspiration: Set targets and go one step further. Do one bit more.

Endeavour: Stick at the tasks, don't give up and take time to understand.

Integrity: Manage our time and struggle when challenged. Don't just ask others for help.

Respect: Reflect on the difficult situation around us. Be kind and care about others and keeping everyone safe and observe the medical advice from the government.

Wellbeing

The restriction placed on us are a challenge for all families. However, we will send out details shortly with some links to websites that specialise in wellbeing for students. In the earlier letters we talked at length about setting realistic expectations in each household. As this moves forward, this becomes more important. If in doubt about this please get in touch with the school and we can try to help. A new area is being added to our website which will put all these fantastic links in one place. Please check back after Easter.

LSA over Easter - Is the school open?

The school will be operating a skeleton staff to support key worker requirements over the Easter period. Families involved have been contacted and are helping us make arrangements.

Should my child be working over Easter?

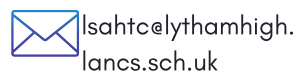
Whilst the concept of holiday is very different at the moment, the school will not be asking colleagues to set formal work. However, we know that some families have appreciated the structure of online work during these difficult times and we will be designing some Easter Challenges for students to get stuck into. We will send these to students and staff at the start of the break, but we would advise families to allow some definite time away from school work and get them ready to start again fully on **Monday 20th April**.

Difficult Times

Free School Meals

With so much uncertainty for us all, it is likely that the situations in most families may change quickly. Where this is the case, it is important that you let us know. The government is providing support for families registered for Free School meals, but it is likely there are many more people who now qualify.

Contact Us



Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Universal Credit with a household income of less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Income-Based Jobseekers' Allowance
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, **not** entitled to Working Tax Credit and household income less than £16,190
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit 'run on' - the payment you receive for a further four weeks after you finish work

To apply click: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

We are currently arranging a national voucher scheme for families in receipt of the FSM allowance for after the Easter break, so will be contacting registered families directly in the next week.

Recognition Points

Since the start of the year, hundreds of students have received their "stars" for their recognition points, earned for excellent work and reflecting our school values. We are currently looking at ways of making sure anyone who has earned a badge receives this in the post after Easter. As the LSAVirtualSchool moves forward, many more points will be awarded for students who engage, submit work, ask questions and generally work well. We will send details to students soon about how these will be given so please ask them!



We are also working on an idea of Mrs. Boyle which will allow parents to nominate their children for great work, living our values at home or for generally doing something good during this period. More of this exciting plan will follow shortly, but please feel free to email any photos of work you are proud of, picture of your children working with their details and we will try to include in the next newsletter.

UK Maths Challenge: Over sixty year 10 students took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge in February.

The certificates arrived just as we had to close, but they are written out and ready to be issued as soon as we are back. The top 40% of participants are awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates in the ratio 3 : 2 : 1. This works out as 20% : 13.3% : 6.7% of the top students in schools across the UK. A special well done to both Aakash and Isabel who managed to achieve Gold and entry to the pink Olympiad round.



Zara Zubrzycki @ZaraZubrzycki · Mar 26

1st Year 7 remote learning Food Tech lesson - Thumb Print Buns, really tasty, thanks for the recipe! Wish we could share them 🍷🍪 @lythamhigh @LSAFood @LSATechdept



Virtual Maths

So many of our students are working hard, but it is great to recognise those that have really worked hard in maths recently! Congratulations to the following forms for their work on MyMaths and the hard working students on Maths Watch.

Class	Tasks completed
7XJMD	292
7XSHD	103
8XAVA	138
8ZAO	138
8XESM	122
8ZDTH	115
8XLGR	108
8XGLE	104
9ZAVA	86
9ZLGR	84
10ZAVA	96

Top users	Year
Lois Kirkham	7
Lily Armer	7
Eve Clarkson	7
Charlotte Poole	8
Theo Hauff	8
Rebecca Lunio	8
Jack Cryer	9
James Walton	9
Chantelle Mower	9
Tess Riley	9
Harry Gledhill	10
Eva Booth	10
Tyler Hornby	10

LSA Super Scientists

Science students in year 7-9 have been completing their Science week posters with distinction. The theme was 'Our Diverse Planet'. They have photographed them and sent them in to school to enter for the inter-college competition. Thank you to those students who entered our Science Week poster competition, the winner is currently being chosen and we will share shortly. Here are a selection of the entries.



Final Words...

We hear the phrase every day, but these really are unprecedented times, testing us all on many levels. Ten days ago, we were running a busy school, full of sport, music, laughter and learning. Overnight, we are now leading an online school, with all the different issues that brings. Having tried to home-school my daughters this week for a day, I realise that every single family will have different expectations and opportunities. I just need ALL families to be aware that we are already looking at ways to ensure that we make up for any lost time when we all return.

The seriousness of the situation sometimes stops us from thinking about how life is changing. It also stops us thinking about how well we are all doing in adapting. There is much that we are now going without and much that we are now having to do that will change the way we work when the world returns to normal. We have a chance to re-think much of what we thought we knew, which can be something exciting to look forward to. I think we can all see a world where there needs to be more kindness, consideration and clearly a greater appreciation of the people around us who keep us safe and keep the country moving. Thank you also for the many kind words of support and now please keep yourselves safe and we will write home again after Easter with more news.

Keep Safe,

Ray Baker
Headteacher