

4th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all safe and well. I am writing to share some information and ask for support with some small issues in order to have the best and most enjoyable end to this term. When we returned in September, we never thought we would be in this position still, but we have come together as a community to do the best we can in the strangest of circumstances. With a tight, organised end to the term, we can make sure we all enjoy some rest over Christmas!

Uniform (Skirts): The school now provides two options for students who wear skirts. Both have the LSA logo and both are available from a range of suppliers. I understand the challenges at the moment of shopping, but we also have a large supply of second-hand stock that we can lend if there are issues in getting hold of the correct uniform. Students can only wear official uniform. We will also be having a big push with all "modifications" to the current uniform and asking that they are addressed immediately. Based on current observations, this will include the rolling up of skirts and trousers, as well as jewellery and make up errors. Please explain to your child that for generations we have tried to make our uniforms different, but it never works! We want to have pride in what we wear and ensure we are setting the model to other students and selling our school at every opportunity.

Home after school: As we all get to grips with the realities of tier three, I have included an infographic that explains what we can and can't do. The one area that we must ask parents for support with is the period travelling to/from school and the period at the end of the school day. Whilst we want children to enjoy the park, we have seen an increase in numbers gathering, in large groups, potentially breaking the covid19 guidelines. We have also dealt with a number of concerns by the public who have identified our students by uniform behaving in a way that lets the rest of the school down. Please have a conversation with your child that they represent our school at ALL times and that by attending LSA, they have agreed to our policy that allows us to hold students to account for their behaviour out of school as well as during the school day.

Public Feedback/ Increase in yr7: A massive thank you to the large number of parents who have helped to share positive experiences of the school with others. We continue to get a few things wrong, but a measure of our school is that we have waiting lists for all year groups. We have also received the numbers coming to us in year 7 next year and we are one of the only schools in Lancashire to see an increase in first choices. It is a massive credit to our reputation and the quality of what we offer, along with supportive families. Thank you.

Bike Store: I have sent a message via Satchel:One letting everyone know that the bike store at the front of school will be out of action for a week, whilst we refurbish and upgrade them. We are asking all children on bikes to enter the site from Albany Road and walk their bikes to the area between the science block and the tennis courts. They will need to chain their bikes to the temporary fencing for a week. We will have staff on duty to support this, but we will also understand if your child chooses to not bring their bike for a week, whilst the work is carried out.

Year 11 Exams: We will all have read government announcements about the exam season this year. We have spoken to all of year 11 students to ensure they remain calm and avoid unnecessary worry at a difficult time. Our key messages are:

- Trust the school to teach the right stuff
- Be grateful that previous years have achieved well, so this year will be similar
- Keep revisiting old work and test ourselves
- Our year 11 are in a strong position (our attendance this term is 93%. Nationally, it is only around 70%).
- Our students are well prepared for whatever changes the government make.
- Let us know if there are any problems quickly!
- Create personal support networks and share concerns openly.

Covid19 Update: As I write this, this is the second full week without any confirmed Covid19 cases in school. However, we are aware of the challenges of the last two weeks of term and the need to be more considerate than ever about not breaking social distancing rules. We have to keep in mind that any positive cases will require formal tracing and the school may be in the position to tell students and staff that they are required to isolate for 14 days over the Christmas period. If we keep away from school if we have symptoms, keep sanitising, keep our faces covered and keep our distance, the chances of this happening reduce dramatically. Again, thank you for your support in helping us keep school as safe and as normal as possible.

Have a great weekend,



Ray Baker
Headteacher