



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the strangest and most difficult year in recent history, there is still a need to share lots of information that will hopefully set us up for an excellent end to this term, a happy summer and a smooth start to the new academic year. I also appreciate that there have been many letters over the last 18 months and I will always be grateful for the time that you take to read them. The close relationship between the school and home is just one of the reasons that we have been able to navigate the last academic year with such success.

Uniform

We are working with the student council to develop our uniform, but any changes will NOT be expected for September. There are two key periods for uniform:

1. **The period up until July 23rd:** We recognise that it is difficult to buy new uniform for students that may still be growing. However, we still ask that all students try their hardest to wear their uniform correctly. If shoes break or are outgrown, please contact your child's head of year who will be able to advise and help. Some aspects of the uniform have to be worn (i.e. skirts, trousers, shorts, ties, blazers) and we maintain a stock on site if needed. We will be asking for standard school trousers/tailored shorts to be worn properly, whilst skirts require the waist band to be visible. If the weather gets warmer, we will make a decision about ties and blazers and let everyone know in good time.
2. **Uniform in the new school year:** We want to start the new school year as smart as we possibly can. Please think about school shoes and NOT trainers (please ask or send a photo if in doubt before buying). We know students will convince you otherwise, but please don't be tricked! Please make sure skirts are sized to ensure the waistband is visible and that ties are clean and not damaged. Again, we will support where this may create issues. We are currently working with the student council to look at some aspects of uniform and will communicate any amendments to our expectations in good time.

Isolation, test and trace

As we await the government's revised guidance on this, tracking and tracing has been the most difficult aspect of managing the school and the one that has caused the most challenge. However, I just wanted to reassure families that we follow the guidance of the government as closely as we can. We identify people who the government describe as contacts and we then ask them to isolate. We try our hardest to avoid closing "bubbles" but whether they may be multiple positive cases in a room, it is better to move to remote learning, rather than ask 30-100 families to isolate fully. **The school will continue to follow the guidance until the end of the academic year. This means that we are still required to identify contacts with positive cases and isolate students all the way through to the end of the term.**

Like everyone else, we are excited about a return to a more normal life, but we will continue to interpret the government guidance and do what we believe to be best for the large community that we serve. We have seen such understanding, kindness and respect over the last 18 months and this is something we will be valuing even more as families make personal choices in how they live with Covid19.

Proud of LSA

We would usually share a number of stories here about our amazing students. However, with limited space, please take a minute to look through the news section of our website <https://www.lythamhigh.lanacs.sch.uk/>, where you will see news, information, reports and



Prepared for Remote Learning

One of the big headaches is staff absence caused by forced isolation. This has led to video lessons, supply teachers and a lot of potential disruption. With the tracing procedures still causing the school issues, we are continuing to maintain our provision through TEAMS in the event of any decision to move to remote learning. Please ask your children to ensure they are still able to access their accounts and check in with their groups/teachers. We will issue new advice to students and families to ensure we can operate next year, using everything we have learned about remote learning.



End of term

Our plan is still to end the term from 12:30pm on Friday 23rd July. However, the changing situation with Covid and the challenge of preparing the site for the new build, is likely to require more instructions as we near the last week. Please check the school website and the various communications we send for any further updates.

First Days Back/ School Calendar

In light of the building work, we have published a revised calendar for the start of term. This can be found here <https://www.lythamhigh.lanacs.sch.uk/useful-information/termdates>

In summary, the new year 7 (currently at Primary School) will return on Monday 6th September.

All other year groups return on Tuesday 7th September for an 8:40am start, where we will have a period of time-sharing key information, working with form tutors and understanding the changed layout of the site.

Testing for Covid19

According to the most recent Government advice, students and staff that are not accessing the school over the summer period, do not need to take Lateral Flow Device (LGD) tests over the school holiday. However, we are being asked to re-establish the ON-SITE testing facility from September and will be asking all students to take two LFD tests. After this, LFD tests will be carried out at home. Again, as soon as we have more detailed information, we will email parents and gain consent.

New Build

Details of our new build can be found here: <https://www.lythamhigh.lancs.sch.uk/lisa-redevelopment>

Whilst this is an exciting development, it will create a number of changes to the way that the site operates when we return in September. I will explain more in a video, but the key things we need EVERYONE to be aware of are:

Construction Site: This will be defined by hoardings around the back of the sports hall and tennis courts. This is where the new building will go. We will work with the builders, but this will clearly be a place where students are not allowed to go. It will also force us to change the walking routes in and around our site, which again, we will share with students.

Movement: Whilst all of the directions, entrances and exits are altered, it is really important that everyone keeps to the new (and often changing) routes and rules. We will make sure information is shared regularly, but we know this will cause anxiety as students return.

Parking: As a result of changing student directions of travel, there **will be NO visitor parking onsite** when we return in September. We would ask all parents and visitors to consider our local neighbours and not obstruct driveways or paths.

In light of the changes, I will be putting together a video presentation for parents and students about the way in which we will work during the building phase. I will send this out in a separate email.

School Day

We will be looking to keep a staggered ending to the school day, at least for the first half term when we return to allow us to embed the safest environment with the rebuilding work. This will mean that we continue to expect students in classrooms, ready for learning at 8:40am every morning. At the end of the day, we will be dismissing students at the following times:

Year 7: 2:40pm Year 8: 2:45pm Year 9: 2:50pm Year 10: 2:55pm Year 11: 3:00pm

Contingency Planning (email in the last week)

I would ask all parents to keep checking any communication that we send out over the next three weeks. I realise that some messages may not be relevant to your child, but we would not want families to miss any important information. As we enjoy the well earned school holidays, I will arrange to email all parents and students prior to returning with any information about government changes and school decisions. The combination of reduced social distancing, changing guidance and returning to a developing site has the potential to change the best made plans!

Staffing Changes

As always, we say goodbye to a number of staff this Summer. One of the downsides of being a great school is that our colleagues are highly valued by others and many now leave for promotions. We clearly wish them all well in their future roles and say goodbye to **Kirsten Kendrick, Naomi Rigby, Hannah Blake, Lucy Roberts, Angela Penny and Yvonne Astley Jones.**

We have been fortunate to recruit some outstanding colleagues and welcome the following next year:

Reecey Atkinson - Drama
Liam Willets – Maths
Megan Ambage – Science
Mark Goodman – Science
Emily Bradford – MFL
Holly Wilkinson - English
Gary Bowell – English

Carmelina Maziotta – English
Deborah Smith – Learning Support
Caroline Doran – Learning Support
Gail O’Sullivan – Exams and Student Data Assistant
Gary Lambert – Exams and Student Data Officer
Charlotte Carey – HR Administrator
Nicola Harvey – Business Support Officer



Diana Award

Andrea Boyle and Rebecca Johnson have been working with our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors/Students to ensure that we continue to do everything we can to address bullying. In this day and age, with mobile phones, this is harder than ever. However, we are so proud to announce that our systems, our students and our performance have all been judged to successfully achieve the Respect Diana Award for Anti Bullying.

We have also been awarded **Anti-Bullying Ambassador School of the Month** for June 2021.

This is a fantastic achievement as we have been chosen out of a pool of over 1000 active Anti-Bullying Ambassador schools! The Diana Award said the following about LSA:

'We were so impressed with all of the incredible work that you've been doing with them (students) since the training day. Your Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are clearly extremely dedicated to the cause and keen to create an inclusive school community.'

FINALLY

Thanks...

Whilst we say this a lot, the support of families over the last 18 months has been incredible. The amount of kindness, compassion and understanding has helped us through a difficult year, which in turn have hopefully given the children the best possible experience in the circumstances. We talk a lot at school about how lucky we are to teach here and there is no doubt that the pride we all feel is felt throughout our school.

Have a wonderful summer, be safe and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September!