



23rd April 2021

Dear Parents,

Parent Updates and Reminders

It has been an exciting fortnight in so many ways with students returning to school, the country entering Stage 2 of the roadmap out of lockdown and the chance to enjoy the much improved weather.

Ofsted

As you are all aware, we were visited by Ofsted on the 25th February under section 8 of the Education Act 2005 and in accordance with Ofsted's published procedures for visiting schools while routine inspections remain temporarily suspended. In particular, they were looking into our safeguarding procedures and remote learning curriculum offer.

We were delighted to spend the day talking to the inspectors about our procedures, protocols and curriculum offer and we were therefore unsurprised with their judgement that, based on all of the evidence, they were of the opinion that:

Leaders and those responsible for governance are taking effective action to provide education in the current circumstances.

We are pleased to share the accompanied full report here and on our website. It goes without saying that our hard work continues and we will not be resting on our laurels. There is still work to be done and, whilst Ofsted have suggested we review the curriculum breadth and depth for the creative subjects at Key Stage 3, which we will indeed action, we feel the current curriculum offer provides our students with sufficient breadth, depth and opportunities to develop within the range of subjects.

Again, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their words of praise and encouragement and to all those who took time to fill in the Ofsted parental survey.

Year 11

The students in Year 11 have now started a half term filled with a range of assessments which are being carried out following the cancellation of GCSE examinations earlier in the year. So far, we have been hugely impressed with their maturity and levels of engagement. They really are a credit to our school. A reminder to all students and parents that the assessments are extremely important so high attendance levels are expected, as well as following all of the rules and regulations.

Attendance

As you are aware, one of our whole school priorities is focussed on improving the attendance of students and there are many students with excellent levels of attendance this year. Whilst we understand there are occasions when a student has a genuine reason for not attending school, we are regularly identifying times when students are absent when they could indeed attend school. Through analysing patterns of attendance, we often see higher attendance on a Monday which then gradually declines as the week progresses. Please continue to work with us to ensure your son/daughter is attending school.

Miss Reed, our Attendance Officer, and Mrs Hammerton, Trust Lead for Attendance, are in the process of completing attendance panel meetings with parents so we can work together to identify and then remove any barriers to attendance. If you are contacted by the attendance team, please remember that we are doing so with the best of intentions and to ensure the best support for your son/daughter.

Uniform and Equipment

We are pleased to see that the vast majority of students have returned to school looking incredibly smart and well prepared for learning. It has been a challenging time for all young people but it has been fantastic to see how quickly the majority of students have settled back into the routines and enjoying their learning once more. Our drive to further increase standards has had a positive impact overall and, despite an expected initial increase in detentions (eg, 4+ demerits for lack of equipment), the vast majority of students demonstrate a brilliant attitude both within lessons and around the school hence the decrease in detentions. The reintroduction of standards cards has also had a positive impact. We will continue to strive for excellence and, where we feel students are not being as fantastic as they can or should be, we will work with students and parents until we see an improvement. Please support us by using the ClassCharts app to prompt daily conversations with your son/daughter.

There have been, however, some issues with a very small number of students in the local community and we would like to remind all parents and students of the importance of positively representing the school in and around Leyland. Where we are made aware of any concerns, we have, and will continue to, investigate and sanction appropriately.

Please remember, if finances are an issue with regards to replacement items (uniform or equipment), then please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can support you with this.

We appreciate your continued support and wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Take care and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School