

**LeAF Studio**

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**Principal: Mrs N Lapskas**

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parent / Carer,

Christmas is here! We have been back 15 weeks, a third of the academic year has been completed and so much has happened!

**Staff changes**

We are bidding farewell to Mr Barbu (Maths) and Mr Holman (PE) this term. Both teachers are moving away from teaching into new roles and we wish them the best of luck.

We are welcoming Mr Chiodi (Philosophy & Ethics, Media & Geography) and we aim to appoint a new Head of PE on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Mr Chapman and Mr Clark have moved into the Maths department.

**Academics**

As always, it has been another busy term for the academic subjects at LeAF Studio. We have completed our first formal exams of the year, with sixth form students from BAMB, Rockley and Studio taking GCSE resits in English and Maths at the start of November. In addition, Year 13 A-Level students have also been taking their mock exams as they begin to prepare for their final papers in May and we have also just passed our latest BTEC external review with flying colours.

Year 11 are also currently in the middle of their mock exams, with all students sitting full GCSE past papers in each of their subjects. This is an incredibly important part of the extensive work we are undertaking with Year 11 to prepare them fully for their summer exams. These will be followed by an academic mentoring day in January where parents will have the opportunity to discuss the results in depth with their child's mentor. Year 11 have also had a successful Progress for Parents evening which saw a fantastic turnout by both students and parents, as we provided support and advice on preparing for exams and revision. This has had a significant impact on the students, with many subsequently attending intervention sessions and staying after school for independent revision. We have even had some great photos sent in of amazing revision walls at home!

Year 10 have not been left behind and they were introduced to their own Progress board earlier in this half term. Using the results from the T1 assessments, we have put together a board which shows all of the students exactly how much progress they have made since joining us. This is something the Year 11s are already familiar with but it was certainly an important talking point with the Year 10s and it undoubtedly helps them understand what they need to do to improve across their subjects. The next step is for us to reveal the Year 9 Progress board when students return after Christmas.

**Performing Arts**

T2 has been an incredibly busy half term for Stage & Screen as can be seen below with everything that has been offered to our students:

- In-house auditions from Reynolds Performing Arts:
  - Beth (full scholarship) - Acting programme

- Tom - Acting Programme
- Sean, Evie-Mae, Nelly, Jenna, Libby A, Phoebe and Josh - Musical Theatre Programme
- Reynold's Performing Arts associate programme offered to Cara, Chloe, Georgia, Izzy, Matt, Milan and Tyler (Yr12)
- In-house auditions from Cosson's Performing Arts and The Brighton Academy (results pending)
- Year 13 PA students now auditioning for colleges and universities with many now beginning to receive offers for places
- Alumni student visit from students training at colleges and universities visit LeAF to give advice and provide a Q&A session to Post 16
- GCSE Music students trip to watch Afro Celt Sound System at Poole Lighthouse
- Alumni student Chloe Payne returning to teach a Commercial workshop to Post 16 students
- In-house pantomime auditions with Made2Measure Productions and Dan and Milan cast to perform in Weymouth Pantomime
- Year 10 GCSE Dance trip to PDSW for a Careers workshop
- Elite Choir performances at Bournemouth Schools Music Association and AFCB Carol Concerts
- Mr Lake received the One Dance UK award for Outstanding Secondary Dance Teaching
- Legally Blonde rehearsals have begun



### Coming up:

- Song writing workshop with an external provider
- Move It rehearsals will begin
- Trip to AUB for A-level Music Tech students
- Street/commercial workshop for Post 16 students
- New York Residential Trip (February half term)
- Blood Brothers theatre trip

## **Sport**

Our student athletes have continued to impress with their efforts and achievements in their chosen specialisms. Year 11s Jake, Jack, Brandon and Bradley and Year 10 Remy all represented AFC Bournemouth on tour to Italy during the October half term, returning with the Ferretti Cup after winning the final on penalties.

Year 10s Be-Be and Abi and Year 11s Amber were all selected to represent Dorset against Kent in the National Cup, whilst Be-Be also took part in the final selection trial for the ESFA U15 International Squad, which will be confirmed around the time of this newsletter going to press. Best of luck Be-Be on retaining your place in the England team!

The LeAF Studio football squads have maintained their impressive runs from last year, with the U14, U15 and U16 boys and U14/15 girls all progressing through to Round 4 of their respective ESFA cup competitions. Fixtures have been coming thick and fast and at the time of writing there are away games to be played in London and Cornwall as we look to improve on the semi-final placings that our U14 and U15 squads achieved in the 2017-18 season.

In our individual sports Year 11 Logan was confirmed a place on two funded Team GB training camps in Austria and Switzerland in February 2019 in preparation to compete in the bobsled at the 2020 Youth Winter Olympics. Logan has been training with the GB squad at University of Bath most weekends this term and is looking forward to putting this into practice on the ice tracks in Europe next half term. Year 11 Jaime-Lei represented Great Britain at the European Classic Powerlifting Championships in November, where she won Gold for bench-press and also came 4<sup>th</sup> in squat and 5<sup>th</sup> in deadlift – an incredible achievement! Another of our international athletes Year 10 Amelia competed at the British Biathlon Championships in Leeds, taking the Bronze medal.

At the end of November Mr Fortescue-Norris travelled to Coventry to present our “bio-banding” training approach to the School Games National Summit alongside one of the leading Sports Science academics from the University of Bath. A lot of positive interest was generated in our innovative practice and we look forward to collaborating with universities and other schools in developing this further over the coming terms.

Finally, congratulations to LeAF Studio alumni Georgia Hall, who following a fantastic first year on the PGA tour was awarded The Sunday Times Young Sportswoman of the Year.

## **Teaching & Learning**

This half term the teaching team at LeAF Studio have taken to review the Knowledge Organisers to ensure these are useful and effective for all our students with a focus on differentiation. We have also launched our Teaching and Learning student group, who have provided feedback on home learning and the Knowledge Organisers. We feel their opinions are valuable in identifying areas of strength and development within our school, and to allow all of our students to access the curriculum.

Our staff have shared their good practice, including Creativity in Theory lessons and The Use of the Visualiser, to support students in accessing and responding to exam questions. Students have contributed (with the guidance of their teachers) to create a model exam answer and top band exemplars have been unpicked.

We have introduced the Year 11 Take Away board to encourage our Year 11s to stretch and embed their learning outside of the classroom, whilst continuing their exam practise or revisiting areas that they would like to revise and further develop.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Mr Lake for his recent achievement in winning the Outstanding Secondary Dance Teaching Award from the One Dance UK Awards.

### **SEND**

The main focus for the SEND department this half term has been preparation for the GCSE exams for Year 11 students. We have been working with and reviewing the support which is available to support students who have disadvantages when taking examinations. This has been a very positive process and has provided a lot of information to support the assessments for Examination Access Arrangements which will take place just before Christmas.

It has been great to see so many students attending the revision and booster sessions which have been timetabled and shared on our Facebook page. It is a great resource and particularly useful for students who find their learning a little more difficult. They are able to ask questions from the teacher to support the revision work they are undertaking at home.

### **Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare**

During the second half of this term, LeAF Studio has been bursting with opportunities for our student athletes and performers to explore potential higher education and career pathways.

Years 9 and 10 have been using their Life Skills / Professional Development lessons to research career opportunities both within and outside of their specialisms, as well as learning about effective interview technique and CV writing. This is particularly timely for our Year 10s as they aim to secure the most appropriate work experience for their 2-week placements in the summer term.

The Royal Marines visited our Post 16 students at the start of December to deliver a presentation and a practical session on developing leadership skills. In addition, our multi-faceted approach to supporting our students to learn and manage their mental wellbeing was highlighted by TASS to School Sport magazine, an article about our good practice will be published nationally in the New Year.

It is great to see students across Years 9 to 11 enthusiastically aiming for Golds in lessons and training as they recognise the importance of the extra effort above and beyond expectation in order to achieve to their potential. There is now a level of competitiveness amongst the tutor groups as to who can get the most Golds this term, and we will publish the results of this in the New Year.

### **Literacy**

The Literacy Support sessions with the year 9 have been a great success this term. The students are all eager to work with Ms Howarth in their small groups and have been making progress. These support sessions are being reviewed at the beginning of next term to consider the needs of the students both in the groups and across the school. This term also saw Miss Lalor holding small workshops to improve the legibility of students handwriting. These workshops will be continued next term with select students being invited to attend.

### **Careers**

Wow! What a half term for careers. We welcomed a large number of exhibitors to LeAF in order to promote Further and Higher Education options for our Performing Arts and Sport students at our

annual careers fayre. The feedback from providers was extremely positive declaring that, ' students were confident, engaged and enthusiastic about their education.' Students have more knowledge about their options and some have set themselves clear goals for their future even though they are only in year 9!

We also were delighted to have a Level 6 Careers advisor from AUB to deliver 1:1 interviews with our year 11 students. These will continue after Christmas for those who have not yet been seen. Our 6th form students continue to apply for courses through UCAS and to other vocational training providers. Martin Wells from Bournemouth University Sport has also been in to discuss the athlete programme and scholarship opportunities at BU.

### **Safeguarding**

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that if you have any queries regarding your child, the following staff are the main point of contact in the first instance:

- SEND – Mr J Phillips
- Pastoral – Miss E Curtis (KS4), Mrs Chewins (KS5)
- Dance – Mr G Lake
- Drama & Music – Miss B Aplin
- PE – to be confirmed
- Sport, Anti-bullying and E-safety Lead – Mr Chapman
- Exams or Admissions– Miss M Hawkins

### **County Lines – what is it?**

Gang violence & exploitation... typically, gangs use mobile phones to facilitate drug orders & supply users.

- County Lines is a growing issue and involving younger victims (12) and 'fresh skins' (young people unknown to Police and other agencies).
- Gangs from large urban areas supply drugs to suburban and rural locations using young people to courier drugs and money flooding the market with heroin & crack cocaine.
- County Lines activity was first identified in 2014 and is now a widespread issue.
- 720 lines identified across England & Wales – 283 originating from London but may well be higher!

How do young people get recruited?

- Deception
- Intimidation
- Violence
- Debt bondage
- Grooming into drug use and/or CSE
- *Brotherhood/sisterhood, befriended, being part of the family, warmth & affection,*
- *Gifts, escape from poverty, trust.....*
- Youtube videos/grime music glamorising

What can you do?

- Be alert for the signs
- Understand the Risk factors

- Report all concerns however small to the school DSL and if you believe someone is at immediate risk of harm report to the Police.
- Understand that children involved in County Lines are victims of exploitation

#### **Forthcoming Events**

- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December**
  - **12:30pm finish to staff and students**
- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January**
  - Inset day – school closed to students (except BTEC Sport exam intervention)
- **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**
  - BTEC Sport external live exam
  - Yr9 - Education for Wellbeing sessions
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**
  - Yr11 Parents Evening
- **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January & Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January**
  - BTEC Media external live exam
- **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January**
  - BTEC Sport & BTEC Music external live exams
- **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**
  - Yr10 Immunisations
- **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**
  - BTEC Music external live exam
  - Yr9 - Education for Wellbeing sessions
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January**
  - BTEC Sport external live exam
- **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January**
  - Yr12 & 13 SSCT Online Safety assembly
- **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**
  - Yr10 SSCT Online Safety assembly
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January**
  - School closed except for appointments
    - Yr11 - Academic mentoring day
    - Yr9 & 10 – Coach progress day

Please note, school closes for the summer on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July at 12:30pm, though our Legally Blonde cast will still complete performances on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Lapskas  
Principal