

LeAF Studio

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14th February 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

It is hard to believe we are half way through this academic year!

This half term Ofsted arrived for a two day visit; thank you for all your support in completing the online Parent view survey. I hope you have all had the chance to read our report. We were really pleased at how the OFSTED inspectors were keen to recognise the “unique nature” of our school and commented that it provides the highest standards of specialism teaching and training and “dovetails it well with an academic curriculum”. The report commented that the school gives pupils “a rounded education whilst providing them time to focus on their passion for performing arts or sport”, as well as highlighting the high quality independent careers advice the school provides. In addition, the school’s focus on the dual career approach was celebrated, with the report noting that the school is a “nationally recognised leader in preparing pupils this way”. If you have not yet read our report it is available on our website and on the Ofsted website.

Academics

This half term, academic subjects have been focusing in on key year groups as they prepare for their imminent exams. Year 11 have come back after their challenging mocks with a renewed focus and have made some excellent progress in the “Believe” stage of their year plan. Critical to this was our academic mentoring day, where every students had a comprehensive review of their progress with their academic mentor and their parents / carers. This was an excellent opportunity to discuss any concerns and set targets before the final set of PPE exams which start after half term. With these being the final opportunity to practice before the real thing, students are now focused on doing their very best in these and have a range of revision strategies and resources to help them prepare fully. We have also launched revision apps for both Maths and English Literature which are proving very popular with the students, particularly the more competitive ones!

In addition to this and following on the feedback from our excellent OFSTED report, we have been particularly focusing in the last few weeks across all year groups on our highest performing students to ensure they make the same good progress as the rest of the school. As part of this, during the half term holiday we are sending 15 selected students to a dedicated revision conference run by Ambitions Academies Trust where they will be getting specialised support in order to stretch them to reach the very highest grades.

Performing Arts

Y12 students visited Weymouth and took classes with Trinity Laban.

A group of GCSE Dancers participated in a workshop and performance with D@Win (University of Winchester 3rd years). This was an incredibly rewarding experience to work alongside 3rd year degree level dancers.

Students have been busily rehearsing for our upcoming shows which are:

- Move It – Friday 8 – Sunday 10 March
- An Evening With...

- Legally Blonde – The Musical

Tickets are on sale for all of these events and can be purchased from the following links:

<https://www.moveitdance.co.uk/tickets/>

www.ticketsource.co.uk/leafstudioschool

Y13 students have almost completed their auditions for college/universities and their successes are soon to be shared on:

<https://www.leafstudio.co.uk/school-information/our-alumni/stage-screen-destinations/>

Sport

The start of 2019 has continued to see success for our Sport students as they work hard towards achieving their season goals.

Both the U15 and U16 football squads have progressed through to the final stages of their respective County Cup competitions and the U14s have drawn their National competitive season to a close having reached the last 8 of the English Schools FA Small School Trophy. The U15s have already equalled their achievements from last year by winning their ESFA quarter final match, and now look forward to their semi-final which will be played at home after half term. One match away from a national final, the squad have continued to develop and improve throughout the season and have every opportunity to make it all the way in this competition, we wish them the very best of luck.

The majority of our individual athletes are now beginning their new seasons with challenging targets and lots of training ahead of them. Some are already competing and achieving in regional and national events, Year 12 student athlete Teagan took the 800m freestyle silver medal at the Dorset County Swimming Championships, only pipped to the gold medal by LeAF Studio alumni Thea O'Keefe, whilst Year 11 athlete Logan recently took part in a Team GB bobsleigh training camp in Austria, where he was piloting a bob on the ice track at over 70 mph!

Last month, School Sport Magazine published an article on good practice of supporting student athletes' mental health across the UK, LeAF Studio was used as an example numerous times within the article as one of the only schools in the country to be Sport England TASS accredited.

Teaching & Learning

Teaching and Learning has explored the use of questioning strategies this half term. Teachers have reviewed their teaching practice and considered how they can use questioning in the classroom to further engage, motivate and actively involve students in the learning. Teachers participated in role play to allow them to gain an insight into a student's perspective and to develop their own teaching practice.

As we continue to look to stretch and challenge our students at LeAF, we endeavour to support all our students, of all abilities, to ensure they have the same outcomes and opportunities to learn in our classrooms. The teaching staff discussed and shared good practice that included differentiated questioning and higher order thinking.

The Question Board has now been implemented in the majority of departments, its role is to encourage our students to ask questions to deepen their knowledge or to highlight any misconceptions.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Abbie Fletcher, who has completed her 6 week teacher training placement in Maths with us at LeAF Studio and returns to Ringwood School to complete her final placement.

SEND

The SEND department have been pushing forwards with delivering targeted interventions for students requiring additional support with English and Maths. This has been well received and students have been working well with the Teaching Assistants.

Other students have begun the Talkabout programme which focusses on developing social communication skills. Thank you to all the Teaching Assistants for their efforts in setting this up for the students.

SEND have recently purchased a new screening tool for students who are experiencing difficulties with their literacy. The first wave of students identified by their teachers will undergo the assessment in the coming weeks to investigate the possibility of underlying literacy problems. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the SENDCo Mr Phillips directly at school or ask your child to come and speak with him or their English teacher.

Careers

All year 11 students have had a careers interview with our level 6 qualified advisor. They have discussed their future pathway and outlined what they must do with regards to CVs, application forms and interviews.

The UCAS window closed earlier this month and a number of our students who have applied to university are now concentrating on getting their grades – good luck Year 13!

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 – Mr Evans
- Sport, Anti-bullying and E-safety Lead – Mr Chapman
- Exams or Admissions– Mrs M Hawkins

Forthcoming Events

- **Wednesday, 27th February**
 - MacBeth Theatre Trip
 - Education for Wellbeing (Yr9)
- **Friday, 8th March to Sunday 11th March**
 - Move It Event, London
- **Tuesday, 12th March**
 - Education for Wellbeing (Yr9)
- **Monday, 18th March**
 - Yr9 HPV Immunisations
- **Tuesday, 19th March**
 - Year 13 Parents Evening

- **Wednesday, 20th March**
 - Yr10 Healthy Relationships workshop
 - Education for Wellbeing (Yr9)
 - GCSE Music collapsed day
- **Tuesday, 26th March to Thursday, 28th March**
 - GCSE Dance rehearsal and live GCSE exam
- **Thursday, 28th March**
 - Blood Brothers Trip
- **Friday, 29th March**
 - GCSE PE moderation exam
 - An evening with... fundraising event
- **Tuesday, 2nd April**
 - Yr12 Parents Evening
- **Wednesday, 3rd April to Friday 5th April**
 - GCSE Drama collapsed day and live exam

Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Lapskas
Principal