

LeAF Studio

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Website: <http://www.leafstudio.co.uk>**Principal: Mrs N Lapskas**

22nd October 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, and students

I would firstly like to thank all staff and students for returning in September and settling so quickly into the new routine in year group bubbles. We have been lucky as a school, there have been no in school positive cases and I thank those staff, parents and students that have self-isolated where there has been contact with a positive case outside of school to ensure our school has stayed clear.

Academics

It has been another very busy half term as we have returned after lockdown. Year 9 have made a very positive start and have now completed their baseline assessments in all of their subjects. The results will be relayed to parents through the T1 reports which are coming out in November and will be followed up by our Year 9 consultation evening on Thursday 19th November. In addition, there have been a number of set changes to core lessons with groups now set by their Maths scores. This will change at the end of the year when English and Maths will have their own independent setting arrangements.

Year 11 have also made a very positive start back, completing assessments in all their subjects to check their progress following the time off in lockdown. Whilst they engaged really well with our online learning, they have been glad to get back to face to face support and have engaged with a range of interventions designed to help them catch up on any missed learning. Our Year 11 revision evening was also very well attended and the video of this is now online if anyone has not seen it. Our first set of mock exams are due to start on 16th November and these have taken on even greater importance considering how they were used last year. We will be continuing to implement a range of interventions to ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to the time lost last summer.

Teaching & Learning

Thanks to both staff and students for ensuring that Teaching and Learning has got off to a positive start after closure. Clear routines have been established whereby meaningful learning has continued within the classroom despite difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

There has been a clear focus this term on HOW students are learning in the classroom and staff have been making sure that the thinking skills students use are transferrable across all subjects. Learning Journeys have been shared with students which narrate their pathway through LeAF Studio School, revealing how learning is sequenced and how it builds on key knowledge and skills.

Knowledge Organiser home learning continues to help students retain key knowledge for each subject and introduce concepts linked to the lesson content. Students are required to use the Look Cover Write Check method and then complete a short quiz on Microsoft Forms through Teams. Teams has been invaluable in our *Blended Learning* approach where students are self-isolating. As a reminder, all students who are self-isolating can access lessons on their Class Materials in their class team and submit their work via email to the relevant teacher.

Specialism Update – Stage & Screen

We have been delighted to be back in our studios (and the MSC) with our Performing Arts students this half term! It has been truly wonderful to explore creativity and performance once again.

Y13 students have been working incredibly hard on university/college applications and audition material ready for their future steps after LeAF Studio. Students have been working with Coaches Adam and Liz on their solo singing material enabling them to be fully prepared for the auditions ahead of them! We look forward to welcoming some vocational colleges to LeAF Studio after half term to provide workshops and in-house auditions.

We are thrilled to share that we plan to host **An Evening With...** in 2021 virtually. This will be a scaled back version of our normal showcase event and will be premiered on Facebook and YouTube for 7 days only. This will be shared with no cost and will be completely free to watch however we will add a donation link enabling you to support our Performing Arts Productions in the future, should you wish.

This half term we have also seen the launch of two new in-house dance companies in our Sixth Form provision: ADVCo and Company Contemporary! You will no doubt be hearing much more about both of these in the coming months.

Please be assured we are doing everything we possibly can to ensure our students' experience in Performing Arts remains to the highest standard and that they can perform at opportunities across the year. Sadly, as with everything this year, this is all ultimately dependent on the ever-changing COVID guidelines.

As always, please join us on our Stage & Screen Community Facebook Page – Supporters of LeAF Studio (Stage & Screen) for future updates and information.

Specialism Update - Sport

Sport students have returned to their S&C and technical training in T1 and many have been working hard to regain their fitness levels after the coronavirus restrictions were put into place. It has also been a frustrating time for many students, as their competitive opportunities have been limited due to the COVID restrictions within some NGBs. However, we have been pleased to see that some students have utilised this time to focus on their health, general fitness and wellbeing.

We have been able to offer our talented athletes workshops and intervention sessions delivered remotely by Solent University, alongside in-house workshops for nutrition and target setting. Our return to competitive sport as a school is obviously restricted at the moment, and we are exploring opportunities for a return to competitive action over the coming months. Congratulations to our 2019-20 Year 11s who came runners up in the ESFA Small Schools' National Cup Final in October 2020.

Year 13 students have started their applications for post-16 study, whether that be University or Apprenticeships. We have also had students start the process for an American University Scholarship and will welcome guest speakers and University representatives to talk through the future options with our Year 12 students after half term.

We are continuing to explore different ways to maintain our sporting provision in these challenging times and we are pleased to have some new sport specialisms forming to share with you later this year. As always, please join us on our Sport Specialism Community Facebook Page – Supporters of LeAF Studio (Sport Specialism) for future updates and information.

Training Fund

Many thanks to all those parents who are now contributing to our Training Fund. This has proven to be a hugely popular initiative and we are truly grateful for all those parents who have agreed to regularly support us in this way. This term we raised over £900 which has been spent directly on our specialisms in the following ways:

Stage & Screen	Athlete Academy
£200 towards a new tap floor	£90 for new Nike training balls
£100 for new Boomwhackers in Music	£300 for new weight benches & squat racks
£150 set aside for new drama staging	£60 for new badminton rackets

If you have not yet signed up to support us in this way, please consider whether you are able to spare £5 a month to help us purchase equipment for both specialisms. Full details of how to do this are on our website, we would really appreciate anything you are able to give. Currently, nearly a third of parents are supporting us in this way and so if we can increase this then we can provide an even better experience for our talented young athletes and performers.

Reading – whole school approach

*‘But words are things, and a small drop of ink,
falling like dew, upon a thought, produces
that which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.’*

Byron

Current research suggests that children who read for 20 minutes per day encounter 1.8 million words a year compared to the 8000 words a year encountered by those who read for 1 minute a day. In order to improve our students’ vocabulary and increase the range of opportunities for them to read in school, we have introduced silent reading within the tutor programme in Years 9 & 10 and as part of our English lessons.

Word of the Week, whole class readers and reading comprehension activities will also be regular features designed to support our students’ learning across all areas of their academic curriculum over the coming half term.

Maths

Following lockdown and the summer holiday the focus in Maths this term has been around building student’s confidence and engaging them in Mathematics. We have had the year 9 baseline tests and along with classroom performance have used these results to set them for T2. Year 10 have been learning about transformations and have been experimenting with probability.

Alongside this, Year 11 have been finishing off the last three units of the scheme of work, ready for their PPEs in November whilst Year 12 and 13 Mathematicians have been enjoying the opportunity to share knowledge and understanding where topics overlap. We are looking forward to getting stuck into T2.

Personal Development

In Personal Development, each half term is focused on a different unit. Year 9 have been working on Growth mindset and resilience this half term, thinking in particular about how to apply it in their specialisms and their academic lessons but also in the wider world.

Year 10 have been looking at employment, including writing their own CVs, and discovering different ways to apply for jobs and pursue both their chosen career and other possible careers. The term finished with an informative talk from our specialist coaches about exploring other careers in their chosen industries.

Attendance

The impact on education has been significant since March 2020 due to the pandemic and the Government have made clear their intention to limit future impact as far as possible. School attendance has been mandatory since the beginning of the Autumn term. Pupils who have Covid-19 symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, should not attend school. Nationally, it is expected that the impact of restrictions relating to Covid-19 will continue to have a negative effect on school attendance. At LeAF we are already seeing this impact and the attendance of several students has already been affected. Absences resulting from Covid-19 will not affect the overall attendance up to the point of a test result. Following the half term holiday parents will be contacted where their child's attendance, due to other absences that are not supported by medical evidence, is below the national expected 96%.

Controlling the spread of Covid-19 – Test and Trace

The hygiene and control measure we have implemented will continue; social distancing will continue to be reduced within the year group bubbles as we do not have the space to sit students over 1m apart.

Should your child display ANY signs of illness we request they **do not** come into school at all. Should your child be showing specific symptoms of Covid-19, they must not return to school until they have completed the quarantine period and have been tested. Please ensure you notify school immediately so that effective 'Test and Trace' procedures can be followed should your child test positive. We would always be willing to discuss with anyone the concerns that a parent has about sharing this information and would always wish to reassure everyone about the circumstances by which a disclosure to NHS Test and Trace would be made.

In the event of a positive test for Covid-19, school will implement all guidance given by Public Health England (PHE) and parents will be informed at each stage. This may include the closing of year group 'bubble' or in an extreme case the closure of the whole school.

Coronavirus advice and guidance received this week from the Local Authority

If your family are in isolation it is not just for a school/working day. Isolating family members have to stay at home, and they cannot travel, except for hospital treatment that are prearranged. You must isolate for the period of time you may have stipulated by Track and Trace and families must inform school.

Hallowe'en cannot be "celebrated" outside of people's family units within the rule of 6. Clearly visiting people's houses is unsafe at the best of times but would be unwelcome and could be scary for people isolating and poorly. The more people socialise outside of their school bubble, the more risk they bring back into schools. All of us want pupils to be able to attend as much as possible; we need support from pupils and families for that. Further advice:

1. Travel Updates for half term straight from Government.
 - **Overseas Travel.** Guidance on travel has become more and more limited in where it is safe to travel. It is housed on [FCO](#) website and is also implied in some local lockdowns. If you plan to go abroad at half term, there are only a small number of places that one can visit and not quarantine.

- Of the countries not covered by [exemption](#), Italy was recently removed and Sweden is the other thought to be at risk. Rates of the disease in Europe can be accessed [here](#)
- **Wales** [non-essential travel](#) effectively banned during half term and into early November
- [Whilst Tier 3 restrictions](#) in **England** are not all in legislation, travel into these areas is meant to be limited to essential reasons and people from there cannot overnight. Rates there are much higher than here and much of the leisure and hospitality will be closed in NW England and South Yorkshire by half term.
- Scotland does not currently have a travel ban, but there are restrictions in place that limit shopping and leisure activities in the most populous areas.
- Northern Ireland has a circuit breaker 2-week half term in place and very little leisure and hospitality is open.

2. Support:

Foodbanks; [Bournemouth](#), [Poole](#) and [Christchurch](#) and charity supporting food equality in [Covid](#)

BCP helpline for [local people](#)

If people have to self-isolate during half term and have no one to shop for them; you should contact the BCP helpline. They may also find that if the big supermarkets cannot book them a slot some of the smaller ones will. Iceland for example has capacity for free deliveries over £35 in BCP.

School Visitors

All visitors on site continue to be only through pre-organised meetings. Reception will **not** be open to parents during the school day. All visitors will be required to provide full details in the event of 'Test and Trace' contact.

Uniform and equipment

All students are expected to be in full school uniform at all times. Both training and polo shirts are still currently permitted for training to lessen the need for changing rooms. Outdoor coats and non-uniform tops are not permitted to be worn in the building and may be confiscated if they are repeatedly worn inside. Students are still expected to have full equipment as none can be loaned. This includes as a minimum:

- Black, green, and red pens
- Pencil & rubber
- Highlighters
- Ruler and geometry set
- Scientific calculator
- Glue

If you are unable to provide the above or there is a current issue with uniform, please contact your Head of Year:

- Yr9 & 10 – Mr Edmonds wedmonds@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk
- Yr11 – Mrs Watt (formerly Ms Manning) gwatt@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk
- KS5 Performing Arts – Mr Lake glake@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk
- KS5 Sport – Mr Evans devans@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk

Face masks

Currently, there is **no mandatory requirement** to wear a face mask/covering in communal areas or classrooms. **However, should a child or member of a staff wish to wear a face mask/covering within any area of the school (communal area or classroom), they will be permitted to do so.** We recognise that there will be times when social distancing is difficult to maintain and anxiety may be relieved by having the choice to wear one. Should your child wish to wear a face mask it is to be plain in colour, with no patterns, writing or images allowed.

In line with national guidance, pupils travelling to and from school on either public or school specific transport/taxis must always wear a face mask.

Should the local demographic change and a higher risk is identified, LeAF Studio have the right to implement face masks as compulsory in all areas if necessary.

Upcoming Events

- **Monday 2nd November**
 - Inset Day - School closed to students except those sitting live GCSE English resit
- **Tuesday 3rd November**
 - All students return to school
 - GCSE Maths resit: Non-Calculator Paper 1
- **Wednesday 4th November**
 - GCSE English Language resit: Paper 2
- **Thursday 5th November**
 - KS5 Virtual Open Evening
 - GCSE Maths resit: Calculator Paper 2
- **Monday 9th November**
 - GCSE Maths resit: Calculator Paper 3
- **Thursday 12th November**
 - School closes at **3pm** for all students due to Trust subject meetings
- **Thursday 19th November**
 - Year 9 Virtual Parents Evening
- **Friday 4th December**
 - Inset Day – school closed to all students

To ensure you are most up to date on what is happening across LeAF Studio, ensure you join us on our social media pages for further information, updates, and school successes:

Facebook: LeAF Studio School

Supporters of LeAF Studio (*Stage & Screen*)

Supporters of LeAF Studio (*Sport Specialism*)

Instagram: @leafstudioschool

YouTube: LeAF Studio

On behalf of LeAF Studio School, I wish you all a relaxing half term.

Kind regards

Lapskas

Nadine Lapskas
Principal