

29 March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

As the dark, winter weather is becoming a more distant memory, the school has felt so much nicer with the return of all students to face to face lessons.

With 97% of students completing the on-site testing and now home testing, we are able to feel more confident normal life really is on the horizon; though for now, we will stay in our bubbles to ensure we are able to limit any cases quickly.

It is with mixed emotions that I have to inform you Mr Fortescue is leaving LeAF Studio at Easter; with sadness on losing him alongside happiness he has landed his dream job lecturing and a place within the research team at Solent University in Sports Science. Mr Fortescue originally joined as LeAF Lead Sports Coach and developed what is now our strength & conditioning programme. Mr Fortescue then went on to qualify as a PE teacher and has been in the classroom for the past three years. Thank you and best of luck Mr Fortescue.

Test & Trace During The Easter Holidays

Should your child develop symptoms of Covid-19 up to and including Saturday 3rd April and your child tests positive up to and including Wednesday 7th April, these should be reported to studioschool@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk to allow the school to make contact with relevant students in their bubble and inform of the need to self-isolate. This email will be checked daily and if further detail is required, to allow the school to report to Public Health England or to identify students required to self-isolate, we will make contact directly.

Covid Home Testing

Students should continue to test at home twice a week throughout the school holidays on a Sunday night and a Wednesday night. This will be particularly important on Sunday 18th March prior to the return to the summer term. All students have received three further boxes of tests to take them through to the new term. Please ensure results are logged on Test & Trace and any positive results are emailed to studioschool@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk.

Academics

With the government announcing the cancellation of exams and the subsequent decision to use Teacher Assessed Grades this summer, the academic staff have been very busy planning out how they will be assessing students in Years 11 and 13 in order to award them their final grades. This information has been communicated with students and parents to ensure that everyone is clear on how students will be assessed this year. Almost all of our final assessments will be taking place

PERFORM TO YOUR POTENTIAL
HIGH EXPECTATIONS – HIGH ACHIEVEMENT

between Easter and May half term and will be broken down into smaller, more frequent assessments completed in controlled conditions which will then enable us to gather a broad range of evidence to decide on an overall grade for each subject. It will also allow us to mitigate for the time lost as students will only be assessed on content they covered. We believe that this is the fairest way to make judgements on our young people and the Year 11 and 13 students have responded very positively to this challenge since their return.

In addition, staff have been looking at ways to support students from all other year groups as they return to school after such a long period of online learning. This process, known as *learning recovery*, is critical in ensuring students are not disadvantaged by the amount of time lost since the start of the pandemic. All subjects have gone back to their medium- and long-term plans in order to decide the best way forward for our students in their academic subjects. Students in Years 9, 10 and 12 completed their T4 assessments which covered the topics delivered during lockdown in order to identify topics students have struggled with and subsequent areas for academic staff to focus on in the coming weeks. As a school, we are completely focused on supporting all of our students in order to ensure they are not disenfranchised by the events of the last 12 months and have every opportunity to reach their full academic potential by the time they leave us.

Students have been adapting to face to face lessons and, I am pleased to say, have settled back into a routine very quickly. They all seem to be happy that they are back, and teachers are too! Please may you ensure that your child is completing their knowledge organiser homework on a weekly basis. This will help them retain key knowledge which should assist them in their learning recovery after the lockdown.

Reading Strategy

LeAF Studio School is on a journey to outstanding and as part of this, we have launched our whole school reading strategy in order to encourage students to read for pleasure and improve their reading skills within their subjects. Any donations of books either non-fiction or fiction would be gratefully received as we strive to encourage all of our young people to read more widely.

Year 11 Message from Mrs Watt

From myself, as your head of year, and from all of your teachers, we would like to say well done for all of the hard work and dedication you have shown throughout lockdown. In such unprecedented times you have shown such fantastic resilience and I speak for all teachers when I express how proud I am of you all.

Your well-being has been in the forefront of our minds throughout the past few months, and I know some of you have been reaching out to teachers regarding your struggles. We completely understand how tough it has been for you all. The support we offer does not stop here though. If you are having any worries then please do speak to myself, your tutors or Mrs Bellot for support.

With assessments coming up next term, it is vital we keep your mental well-being positive in order to reduce the stress of exams as much as possible. With that being said, it is imperative that continuous focus is kept throughout the school day. Please use the academic support provided through interventions to help you develop your understanding of each of your subjects. Your teachers are more than willing to provide any extra guidance if you require it. Keep working hard and the best of luck to all year 11s in your exams next term.

Year 10 Message from Miss Magookin

It has been a busy half term with remote learning and coming back to face to face lessons. It has been great to see the students socialising with friends and working hard within their specialisms and core subjects. I hope that with the lockdowns and bubble closures Year 10 have seen the importance of their time in school and have enjoyed being reunited with their peers. The vast majority of students have settled well back into school and it's been great to see their enthusiasm upon our return. It's been great for me to see the students back in an environment where they can flourish and excel. I wish everyone a restful Easter with the chance to recharge ready for a brand-new term.

Year 9 Message from Mr Edmonds

T4 has been a busy half term, welcoming students back to site, ensuring they are all tested and know how to test themselves at home. We have also been supporting students with adjusting to being on site rather than learning from home and resetting our expectations.

There are plans to celebrate the fantastic work done during lockdown by many of the students as well as working towards some celebrations at the end of the academic year. I have been really impressed by the supportive and considerate manner in which the Year 9 students have come back to school. There are many examples of friends and peers supporting each other, looking out for one another's wellbeing as well as welcoming the students that have joined Leaf during lockdown.

LS6



As you may have seen through our social media channels, we have also just undertaken a rebranding of our LeAF Studio sixth form. From now on, our sixth form will be known as **LS6**.

With Years 9 - 11 all now being heavily oversubscribed, we have turned our attention to expanding our sixth form provision to give our students an even better experience at Post-16. If you know of any talented athletes or performing artists in Years 10 or 11 who are looking for a small but vibrant specialist sixth form, then LS6 is the perfect place for them. As one student put it recently: *"Since joining LS6, I haven't looked back, and I look forward to the weekdays as much as I do the weekends now!"* For further details please see our website and social media channels.

SPECIALISM – STAGE & SCREEN

Training Fund

Thanks to the generous donations of our parents, we were delighted to receive our next allocation of £550 to develop our Performing Arts department. We were able to use this towards drama blocks which will be used as staging in both GCSE Drama and BTEC L3 Performing Arts. We also used this towards our annual subscription to Drama Online where all LeAF Performing Arts students can access a range of drama texts. Students can see a member of Performing Arts staff for their log in details if needed.

A New World – Summer Production

The launch of our summer production came with delight the moment the Government announced that theatres will reopen should their road map be a success and the milestones met. We look forward to welcoming you to Lighthouse Poole on 23 and 24 July 2021 to enjoy our production.

A New World is open to all Stage & Screen students and will be an epic way to start the summer holidays! Tickets will be available directly from Lighthouse with information being released soon.

Careers Opportunities in Performing Arts

Despite Lockdown our students (and staff) have been busy behind their screens engaging in workshops and audition opportunities. Key Stage 4 students took part in an online Acting workshop with one of our alumni students now training at Rose Bruford College. Additionally, 25 students from Years 9-12 took part in a virtual workshop with the National Youth Theatre, exploring vocal/physical skills and audition technique. Students will submit their audition to become a member of the company through a self-tape this year - we wish them luck!

During lockdown we also hosted workshops and Q&As with over 20 LS6 alumni students and many vocational colleges including Addict Dance Academy, MEPA College, Performers College and Sharpe Academy.

Since returning, we have also welcomed Reynolds Performing Arts and the University of Winchester virtually to work with students in KS4 and LS6.

Auditions and Next Steps

We are very proud of our students who have been offered places to study and train at some of the UK's very best colleges and universities. Our students now have offers for academic pathways including Nursing, Teaching and Photography as well as vocational Performing Arts courses. For full details, please visit the school's social media.

Recruitment

Do you know any students in Y8, 10 or 11 who are thriving in the arts and would be suited to studying and training at LeAF or LS6, alongside their outside of school training? Please ask them to get in touch with us.

SPECIALISM – SPORT



LeAF's Sports Specialism students have been working hard since their return from home learning. It has been fantastic to see and hear our students working towards achieving goals in training and preparation for their return to competition.

With limited opportunities for our students to take part in competitive sport, we have been providing our students with more team based games within their specialism training to encourage competition and teamwork as well as the social benefits that many of the students have been starved of during the lockdown period.

After Easter, we will be looking to reintroduce our targeted S&C programme as the students' general levels of fitness will have recovered to their previous levels and we look forward to pushing the students further forward in their physical conditioning for their sports. It has been fantastic to see our Staff, Students and Jamie W in Year 12 competing in the LeAF to Tokyo 2021 race – which currently sees Jamie out in the lead in our latest count by almost 1500km! Please do sponsor Jamie who is raising money for Amelia's Rainbow via the link found on our social media posts.



A special mention goes to our High Performance athletes who have managed to maintain a substantiated training programme throughout lockdown, and we are pleased they have been granted permission to train and compete through the government's elite sports exemption ruling.



Our Boxing and Golf Academies have been lucky to access their facilities on our return to school in March, and it has been fantastic to see our respective specialism sport students accessing Wimborne Pro-Am BC's and GolfCatcher's excellent facilities under the guidance of our fantastic coaches Dave and Gideon.

Dual Careers

We have been lucky to welcome guest speakers for our High Performance students during lockdown, discussing a range of areas in regards to Dual-Career High Performance lifestyles. Many thanks to Becky Wilde, Inez Griffin and Lewis Richardson for giving up time out of their busy schedules to chat to our students and we look forward to welcoming more guest speakers next term!



Next Steps



Many of our Year 13 students have received offers from a range of Universities. Liam O has options to study at Loughborough, Bath, & Leeds to study alongside Triathlon, Connor N and Ryan H both received 5 offers each (including St Mary's) to study alongside Football and Rowing respectively, George H has been offered a place at Bournemouth alongside his running and Tom C-T has been accepted at Tournament Golf College to pursue his dual-career in the sport.

Other students have decided to move into non-specialism careers and pathways alongside their sporting commitments. Good luck to all our Year 11s and 13s moving onto pastures new.

We are looking forward to opening up our facilities and our return to competitive sports in due course and building up for competitions starting again later this year. Well done Sport Specialism, we are all proud of you, and can't wait to get back to normal soon!

Changes to School Day 2021-22

After consultation with staff and Ambitions Academy Trust it has been decided the school day from September 2021 will alter to allow for split lunch due to the size of the school now on site, as well

as the removal of personal development as a separate lesson into two tutor times to ensure it is more personal to the students with their tutor leading. The school day will be the same each day as follows:

Time	
08:35	Tutor
08:45	Period 1
09:45	Period 2
10:45	Break
11:15	Period 3
12:15	Period 4
13:15	Lunch 1 / Tutor 2
13:45	Tutor 1 / Lunch 2
14:15	Period 5
15:15	School day ends

Lunch and tutor will be rotated to ensure students all access the first lunch at least two days a week.

Future Dates:

Thursday 1 st April	School finishes for Easter at 4pm
Monday 19 th April	- School re-opens at 8:40am to all students - Teacher Assessment Papers (TAPs) commence for Yr11 & 13
Thursday 29 th April	Yr12 Parents Evening
Monday 3 rd May	School closed – Bank Holiday
Friday 14 th May	HPV Immunisations for Years 9, 10 & 11
Thursday 27 th May	Year 10 Teenage Booster programme (& Yr11 catchup)
Friday 28 th May	School finishes for May Half Term at 3pm
Monday 7 th June	School re-opens 8:40am

I would like to wish all staff, students and parents a Happy Easter and look forward to students returning after the holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs N Lapskas
Principal