



5 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow, what a busy term LeAF Studio has had! A massive thanks to all my staff and students for what has been a really positive and productive few months.

We have had lots of sporting success including becoming County Champions in football. Yr10 GCSE went out for Geography fieldwork on Urbanisation in Portsmouth, LS6 Acting Company performed their first ever production in front of a sell out crowd at Poole Lighthouse and KS5 sport leaders supported the organisation of the regional qualifiers for handball where both Yr9 boys and Yr10 girls have qualified through to the next stage.

Staff changes

Many congratulations to Mrs Watt who has given birth to baby Magnus three weeks early! Both mum and baby are doing well. Mr Glover, an extremely experienced teacher both GCSE and A Level Business Studies, has been appointed to cover Mrs Watts for the duration of her maternity leave.

Mrs Barker-Haines will be starting after Easter as our new Head of English following Ms Jennings' move to SENDCo. Mrs Barker-Haines has visited LeAF a few times since her appointment to commence the handover process from Ms Jennings and we are lucky to have her join our team.

Sadly, at the end of this term we are also saying our goodbyes to two teachers.

Mr Edmonds is leaving us as Head of Maths and Head of Year 10 to move back to a bigger school in Christchurch. Miss Spencer will be covering the Head of Year role during Mrs Watt's maternity and Mr Massey has been appointed Head of Maths and will start this role in September 2022.

Mrs King is leaving us as one of our English teachers, we will be interviewing for this post on the final day of this term.

Academic update

Students in Year 11 and 13 have now completed their second round of mock exams and have received their results. On the whole students took a very mature approach to these exams and



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worked hard to revise the key topics. Their conduct in the Palladium was exemplary meaning that they are well rehearsed for the strict rules and routines they must follow in the live exams during the summer term.

There is no time to slow down! With only 19 days to go, students need to continue to be organised and revise the content, key terms, and definitions from each subject they are studying. Teachers are providing opportunities throughout the week for targeted intervention as well as giving up their time during the Easter holidays to support all students so please encourage your child to attend.

Lastly, please ensure that your child has the relevant equipment to sit their exams - calculators make excellent gifts instead of Easter eggs!

Attendance

We are acutely aware that the pandemic has caused massive issues in terms of both staff and student attendance at times over the last two years. However, as we move out of this period we need to focus once more on ensuring that student attendance is put right at the forefront of what we do as a school. Put simply, if students do not attend school, then they do not make the progress they should.

The diagram here illustrates this perfectly – there is a clear link between attendance and achievement. Even an attendance rate of 92-96% lowers the average GCSE grade by over half. Whilst we know that many students have struggled with Covid and other related issues, we are now going to be focusing closely on ensuring students' attendance returns to pre-Covid levels so that they are given the best possible chance of success in their time with us.

Attendance	Effect on Results (per GCSE or equivalent)
96 – 100%	+1.4
92 – 95.9%	-0.7
90 – 91.9%	-1.5
85 – 89.9%	-1.9
80 – 84.9%	-2.7
0 – 79.9%	-3.3

Online safety

With students using digital devices even more following the pandemic, it is important that we reiterate the importance of online safety and the role that parents play in this. The following links are both important resources for parents wanting to support their children with this:

[CEOP Education 11-18s \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) - has lots of information about safety online but also about healthy relationships, meeting people online and other key topics.

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk) – an excellent resource covering a range of issues related to online safety.

SEND update

Exams access arrangements are available to students who struggle in exam situations due to an inability to access the material in some way. This might be an issue with reading, writing, or processing information. When a student has been identified as having such a difficulty, whether by staff, parents, or the student themselves, we will ask them to complete a selection of activities to determine which arrangement will provide them with the most appropriate support.

We do not need a formal diagnosis of learning difficulty and must complete these activities in house or through a qualified assessor known to the school. Once approved, arrangements will be valid for a period of up to 26 months.

If you have any queries, please email Anne.Jennings@LeAFstudio.co.uk

Careers update

It has been a busy half term for careers at LeAF Studio. 45 Students went to London to the Move-It careers show to meet with employers and further education providers. Our students were also in fine voice supporting our fantastic performances in different showcase events.

Half of our Year 10 students also travelled to the BIC in March to attend the Careers and Enterprise show. Our students were able to explore different careers, meet with employers and gain information that will help them plan the next steps in their lives.

All students in Year 10 have now secured work experience placements for next term. They will be gaining real-world work experience with a variety of employers across the local area for two full weeks from May 16th – 27th. This is a real milestone for a lot of our students and provides an invaluable experience in helping them to plan and make choices about what they want to do in the future.

Mrs Speed, our specialist careers advisor, has also continued to meet with students from Years 11 and 10. Every student has an opportunity for an individual meeting during their time at LeAF Studio where they will receive personalised advice and support to enable them to make the best decisions for their future.

Sport update

What a crazy half term it has been in T4 for our sports teams at LeAF with our sports teams achieving some great success:



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Football

Year 9 boys are on course for a historic treble, having qualified for the PEDSSA Cup Semi-final, won the Dorset County cup beating Poole High 4-1 and qualifying for the ESFA National Cup final in May. Keep an eye out for the national final details which will be released very soon!

Our U15 girls (Year 9&10) qualified this week for the final of the Dorset Cup which will be played Wednesday 6th April. Good luck girls!

Other successes included our Year 11 girls reached the national cup Quarter Finals, and both the Year 11 Boys and Year 10 boys reached the last 32 of the national cup.



The high performances this season were rewarded with 12 students being selected and representing Dorset Schools Representative Teams from U14-16 ages in both girls and boys' categories. Special mention to Dan R who has scored 4 goals in 2 games for the county side so far this season.

Powerlifting

The introduction of Miss Spencer's Powerlifting club at LeAF has been spectacular with 10 students already competing in national qualifiers - 5 of whom qualified for the national Championships later this year. Congratulations to Laila, Drew, Chloe, Harvey and Charnie who shared 13 South-West records between them! Good luck in the nationals later this year!



Handball

Our maiden venture into the England Handball Schools' National Cup was a huge success early in March, with our U15s boys and U15 girls' teams both qualifying for the Regionals being held at LeAF in May. Well done to the handful of LeAF students that have been invited to Dorset County trials following their performances!

Cricket

Our U15s girls indoor cricket team reached the semi-finals of the Dorset Cup which was a fantastic achievement as all the girls playing were new to the sport. Hopefully they can go one better in the outdoor format later this year!

Netball

Our U15s girls' netball team competed in the Bournemouth Schools Tournament for the first time doing themselves and the school proud!

Individual sporting success

Jimmy Jay Morgan (Y11) football - continued selection by England U16s and Southampton U18s/23s

Finley S (Y10) MMA- selected for the Welsh MMA U16 Squad

Mabel R (Y10) - England DMT training sessions

Jenson B (Y11) Golf - leading the U18 South-West England match play

Daniel P (Y9) Football - Signed by AFC Bournemouth academy
Lexie C (Y10) - selected by Dorset and Wilts County U15s squad
Tyler C (Y11) - U17m 1st place 100m & 100m hurdles - Bournemouth Spring Open



LS6 Sport

Our LS6 sport students have been welcoming guest speakers from a variety of industries this term. We welcomed Farai Hallam from The Premier League and Alex Pearson-Jones from Battalion Barbell to speak about their industries. We look forward to welcoming more guest speakers over the next few weeks.

In-between completing assignments and delivering sessions for their sports coaching module, congratulations go to our year 13s who have secured their university places for next year!

General news

Our students have been enjoying the use of our new Basketball facilities in lessons, and we look forward to starting basketball club next term before a few friendly fixtures.

We will be moving into our summer term of sporting provision after Easter and will be spending more time outdoors. Please do provide your son/daughter with sun cream / sun hat and water bottle for the (hopefully) warmer weather!

Good luck to all our athletes competing over the Easter break and we look forward to hearing about your successes when we return in T5.

Performing Arts Update

As always, it's been a very busy few terms in Performing Arts at LeAF! Our Year 11 students have continued to complete their practical exams as part of their GCSE courses, all contributing towards their final summer grades.

Meanwhile, our LS6 students have been visited by Performers College, adding to their many careers opportunities across the academic year. Further to this, **Y9 GCSE Dance** students had the opportunity to work with **D@WIN from University of Winchester**.

Offers continue to come in from other colleges and universities for our Y13 students and these are regularly updated on the LeAF Studio social media channels. Y13 students have begun to secure their places and are making their final choices.

An Evening With... took place at Layard Theatre and was a huge success, providing an opportunity for our Y10, 11 and LS6 students to perform vocally. The evening was compered by Billie Aplin and Geoff Lake and the students performed wonderfully – so many milestones were achieved for some of our less confident singers. A huge thank you to Coach Adam for directing this event with the support of Coach Liz and not forgetting Greg and Steve who, along with Adam, accompanied our students.



At the start of March, 37 students from Y10, 11 and LS6 performed at the world's biggest dance event. **MOVE IT.** The students performed in the showcase theatre and on the prestigious main stage! The students truly 'held their own' whilst performing alongside vocational colleges from across the country. MOVE IT for us wasn't just about performing (whilst that was incredible); it was about the #TeamLeAF family coming together as one, regardless of age! You can view our performance pieces on Facebook, Instagram or on our YouTube channel.

[Click here to view our YouTube channel.](#)



Music lessons continue with Totally RAD Music. They provide an extensive range of peripatetic music tuition. If you are interested in signing up for this programme, please contact Karl.Hayman@leafstudio.co.uk



LeAF LIVE! took place at the end of March for our Music and Music Technology students. It was a fantastic night, sharing the talents from across Year 9, 10 and 11 with a special visit from LeAF Studio alumni who are now studying at our education partner, BAMB. Congratulations to our wonderful singers, musicians, and bands!



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The **LS6 Acting COMPANY** presented their very first straight play '**DNA**' on Thursday 31 March in the Sherling Studio at Lighthouse, Poole. The company auditioned, were cast, and produced their performance in just four short weeks, with very few rehearsals - giving the company further insight into a real industry process. The cast worked tirelessly to learn their lines, blocking and adopt their roles. With several cast swaps, Covid cases and inevitable illness, the understudies have been very busy.



Finally our **Bannister Studio refurb** is well underway with our curtain track system now in place and the portable lighting rigs delivered. Next step is to lay the new floor and we will have a wonderful acting space available to our drama students and the perfect studio for tap dance to be taught.



COMING SOON!

- Our 2022 summer production, 15-16 July at Lighthouse Poole
Facebook for Parent/Carers/Friends & Family: [Supporters of LeAF Studio \(Stage & Screen\)](#)
Facebook for Students Only: [LeAF Stage & Screen Students](#)



LeAF Studio Sixth Form

It's been a new start in the Sixth Form as we continue to drive forward high expectations in our Post 16 provision.

Congratulations to our Y13 A-level Psychology and Business students who achieved excellent grades in their PPE2 examination. Our Y13 students are in the process of completing their BTEC courses and preparing for A-level summer exams alongside

securing their places at universities and vocational colleges. Our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team organised a fundraising non-uniform day for Ukraine and the whole school participation raised a wonderful £504.40. The Student Leadership Team will soon be meeting again with our KS4 members to discuss important whole school student voice topics to further improve LeAF Studio School and Sixth Form. Numbers are once again looking strong for our September 2022 intake, and we are delighted to see our Sixth Form growing.

Information regarding Y13 leavers hoodies will soon be sent by Mr Lake via email and the 'save the date' has been issued for the Y11 and Y13 Leavers Prom which is 8 July 2022.

A reminder for students: *LS6 students should ensure LeAF are contacted if they are absent, late, or unwell. Students should ensure their parents contact us or students can contact us themselves by calling 01202 578886 or emailing LS6Attendance@leafstudio.co.uk – we must be informed of your reasons/illness etc. Messages on Teams, Facebook or Teacher's direct emails are likely to be missed, so please use this number or email address moving forward. Out of courtesy, please contact your subject teachers too.*

Future Events:

- Friday 8th April
 - school shuts at 1:15pm
- Monday 11th April – Friday 22nd April (except Bank Holiday Friday and Monday)
 - Easter Academic Intervention for Yr11 and 13 (see programme sent out)
- Monday 25th April
 - LeAF opens to all students
- Tuesday 26th April
 - Yr13 Performing Arts Unit 5 exam
- Thursday 28th April
 - Yr10 Parent Consultation Evening
- Friday 29th April
 - Yr11 Final Drama exam
 - Yr13 Performing Arts Unit 5 exam
- Tuesday 3rd May onwards
 - Live exams