

26 May 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

T5 has been short but certainly not quiet! For the first time since 2019, live exams have commenced on site for both Year 11 and Year 13 students. A massive thanks to Mrs Hawkins who has led on the organisation of all exams.

Lower down the school Year 10 have been on work experience, which has been a really positive experience for almost all of the students, and it has certainly been peaceful onsite for the past two weeks! Work experience is an integral part of our careers programme as we encourage students to start contemplating possible future careers in their specialisms or beyond. Year 12 Sport students will also be going on work experience during the Specialism and PSHE weeks at the end of the summer term.

The Year 9 football team have made it into three cup finals this term, winning the County Cup 4-1 against Poole High but sadly losing on penalties to the same opponents in the PEDSSA Cup final. However, today we head to the Hawthorns, home of West Bromwich Albion, for the national final of the Small Schools Cup, which promises to be an amazing experience for our talented young squad. The game will be streamed live online and we will share the link via social media for those who wish to watch it.

To keep up to date with what we are doing across the school, please follow our social media on the following links:



### Attendance

As we start to return to normality following the pandemic, it is clear that there is still a considerable impact on attendance across the school. Despite incidences of Covid being very low amongst the students, the attendance figures for each year group are still considerably lower than they were before the pandemic. With this in mind, we are having a renewed whole school focus on attendance from T6 onwards. Simply put, if students are not in school then they are not learning, and this will have a significant impact on their academic progress and therefore their exam results.

A recent study has revealed that the impact of poor attendance is even greater than previously thought, with the chances of your child achieving 5 good GCSEs (grade 4 or above) reducing as their attendance drops:

Attendance	Chances of achieving 5 good GCSE passes	Impact
95% +	69%	High chance of success
90-95%	51%	Even chance of success
80-90%	28%	Very low chance of success



Principal: Nadine Lapskas  
Part of Ambitions Academies Trust  
CEO: Sian Thomas

**PERFORM TO YOUR POTENTIAL**  
**HIGH EXPECTATIONS – HIGH ACHIEVEMENT**



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As can clearly be seen by this research, even a relatively small drop in attendance can have a massive impact on your child's chances of being successful at school. To put this in context:

- Taking 10 days holiday during term time means that your child's maximum attendance can only be 95%
- Taking a day off "every couple of weeks" means that your child's maximum attendance can only be 90%

Whilst we appreciate that there have been many extenuating circumstances regarding illnesses and postponed holidays as a result of Covid, we now need to set our expectations out again for all students and parents in order to get back to the excellent levels of attendance we had before the pandemic. As seen from the table overleaf, attendance is one of the biggest factors in student attainment and so it is more important than ever that your child attends school every day that they are able to be in. Keeping your child off for minor issues such as headaches, coughs and colds is not going to do them any favours in the long run so as parents you need to ensure that they are in school as much as is physically possible.

Obviously, there will be some instances where your child is genuinely unwell and unable to come to school. If this is the case, please ensure that you report your child's absence by either emailing [studioattendance@leafstudio.co.uk](mailto:studioattendance@leafstudio.co.uk) or calling 01202 578886 and leaving a message on the absence line. If we do not receive notification of an absence, we will then need to contact home to confirm the reason for the absence which can obviously be very time consuming if we have a number of absences to chase up, so please help us out by reporting your child's absence for every day that they are off.

We will be checking student attendance every week and will be contacting home for any students whose attendance is seen to be dropping. If we identify any issues with your child's attendance we will be in touch to discuss the issue with you and look at ways to improve it.

## Uniform

As we approach the end of the year, it is a good time to remind students and parents about our uniform rules.

All of our uniform is now available from our suppliers CJI Clothing (Athlete Academy) and Dance Runway (Stage & Screen), and full details of our uniform and kit lists as well as the link to the online shop can be found on our website here: [Uniform & Kit - LeAF Studio](#)

Please ensure that your child has the correct uniform for both training and academic lessons. Tutors check students on a daily basis and you will be contacted if there any issues with your child's school uniform.

May I wish you all an enjoyable relaxing half term, see you in T6.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Lapskas  
Principal