

26th September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you at the start of another academic year to provide an update on some key areas that will impact on your child over the next few months. It has been an incredibly positive start to the new term and the students have come back very focused and clearly motivated by all the challenges that lie ahead for them this year, and we intend to ensure that this fantastic attitude continues throughout the year.

Behaviour

I wrote to parents at the end of last term regarding the changes we have made to our Behaviour Policy, particularly around the introduction of the **APB** (Attendance, Progress & Behaviour) system which has now gone live. The updated Behaviour Policy is now live on our website and the students are getting weekly APB updates from their tutors. There has already been a marked decrease in behaviour incidents as a result of this and we hope that this trend continues. We will be reviewing Attendance, Progress and Behaviour in the final week of this half term and any students who do not meet these expectations will be unable to take part in training, fixtures, rehearsals or shows for the duration of T2. As it stands at the moment, I am glad to say that this will only apply to a very small handful of our students but all students need to ensure that their Attendance, Progress and Behaviour is exemplary for the next three weeks if they want to be part of the specialisms next half term.

In addition, we have made some minor tweaks to our **detentions** for both homework (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and SLT (Fridays). Transport home is now provided for any students who normally get school buses, and any student that does not turn up (without prior arrangement between parents and the Head of Year) will automatically be issued with a further referral. Heads of Year will not be chasing students for detentions, it is the students' responsibility to attend or they will gain a further 4 behaviour points and therefore be more likely to miss out on training the following half term. If your child cannot attend a detention then you will need to contact their Head of Year to explain why and to rearrange the detention. Without this, your child will automatically be given a referral if they fail to attend.

A number of parents have noticed that there is now a behaviour category on SIMS for **toilet / exit passes**. Please be reassured that this is merely to track the use of these passes and these do not carry any behaviour points or sanction attached to them.

Professional Conduct and Attendance/Punctuality at LeAF Studio Sixth Form

As our expectations and policies continue to be refined in the main school, this is mirrored within our Sixth Form provision as part of our Sixth Form ethos of '*Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Ready*'.

LeAF Studio

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT
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Part of Ambitions Academies Trust

Our Sixth Form students should be 'setting the standard', modelling outstanding conduct and being inspirational members of our community for our younger students. I am delighted to share that our sixth form students have returned from summer demonstrating a wonderful work ethic and general conduct around the site has been positive.

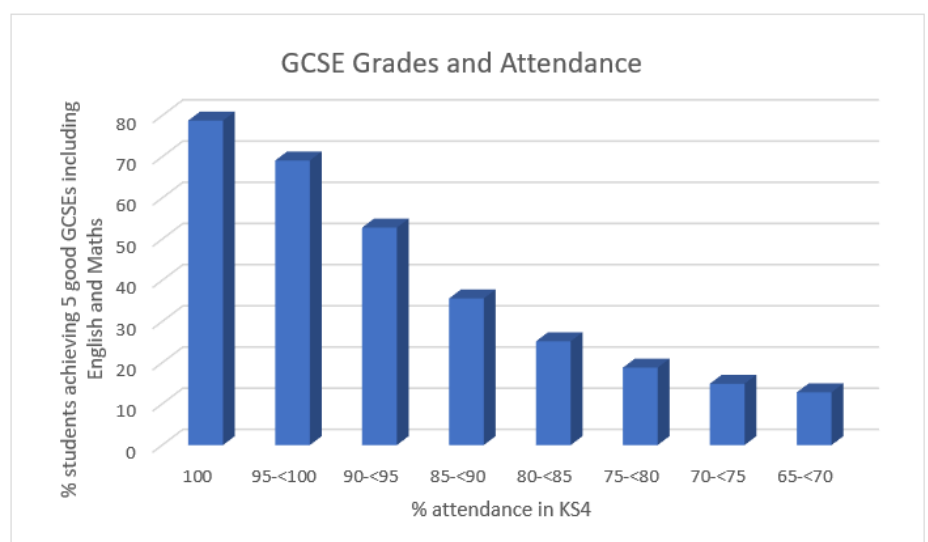
Attendance and punctuality across our sixth form provision is also paramount in ensuring students success and this again is monitored weekly.

Mr Lake, Head of Sixth Form, is monitoring all conduct points, attendance and punctuality of our sixth form students closely and students who repeatedly fail to meet and follow our professional conduct expectations will also be removed from all training sessions, fixtures, rehearsals or shows for a set period of time. This may also be actioned if our sixth form students do not meet deadlines / drop in attendance / have poor punctuality.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a critical focus for us as a school. Put simply, students whose attendance is low are far less likely to be successful both academically and within their specialisms. We are in the process of appointing a new Attendance Officer who will be taking on the role of monitoring this important aspect of school life and they will be in contact with any parents where we have concerns regarding attendance. We have already noticed some cases this year where students have been off school for very trivial reasons – as parents we need to be developing resilience in our young people and encouraging them to come in wherever possible, just as they will need do in their careers after they leave school.

As mentioned above, Attendance now forms part of the APB criteria for students being able to access training, so any students with unexplained low attendance will be at risk of missing out. The impact of attendance on GCSE results can clearly be seen in the graph here – it really is one of the biggest factors behind student success at school so it is critical that students are attending every single day.



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Inclusion

Many of you will have already met or spoken to Mr Welch, our new SENDCO. He has made a fantastic start with us and has already implemented many new strategies which are being used to support our SEN students. Indeed, some of you will have seen the new Pupil Passports he has produced and these are already having an impact for students and staff. If you have any questions around SEN and how we can support your child, please feel free to contact him at luke.welch@leafstudio.co.uk and he will be happy to discuss any issues you or your child might have.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support as parents. The importance of your role cannot be underestimated as you set the example for your children every single day. If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at tim.clark@leafstudio.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Clark

Vice Principal - Inclusion

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