

March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the spring term, our Year 11 and 13 have been completing Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) for the second time this year in preparation of live exams as well as live BTEC exams in both Sport and Performing Arts.









Quality of Education

Over the last few terms pupils have been busy with exams and of course that means results which get posted home to parents and carers.



Years 9 and 10 need to start preparing for their end of year exams. Revision lists will be published to allow pupils to organise their time effectively.

Please ensure that they have all their equipment including:

-  Clear pencil case
-  Black pens
-  Pencils
-  Highlighter
-  Rubber
-  Sharpener
-  Geometry Set – Protractor, Compass, Triangle, 15cm Ruler
-  Scientific Calculator – This must not be taken into exams where a calculator is not allowed.

SEND

At LeAF we strongly believe that all learners can thrive within our setting given the correct tools and strategies.

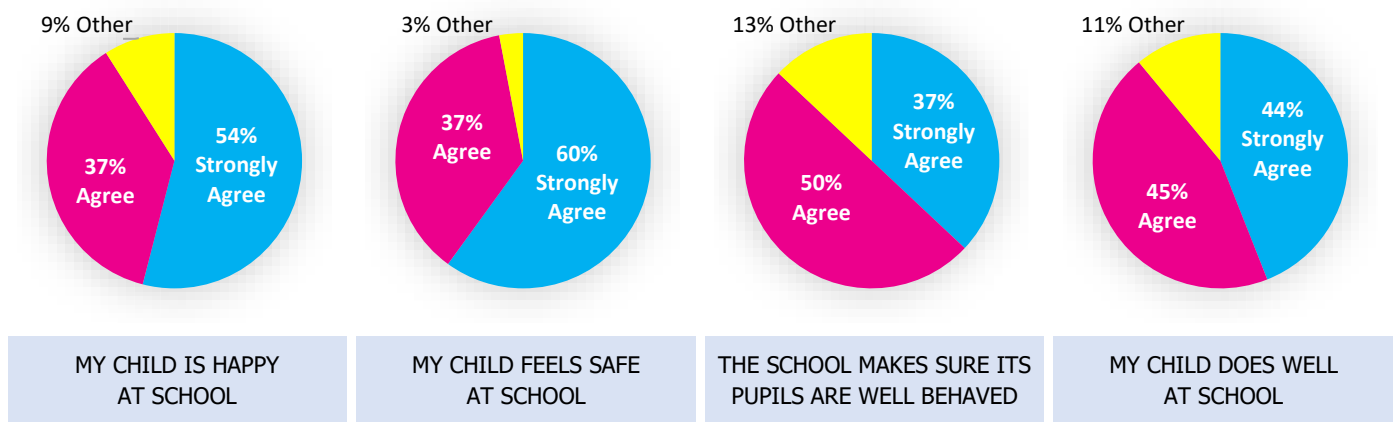
Neurodiversity is a word being used a lot within SEND communities to try and foster a more inclusive approach to SEN. Neurodiversity encompasses the idea that neurological differences, such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and others, are natural variations of the human brain rather than disorders that need to be fixed or cured.



It emphasises embracing the diverse ways individuals think, learn, and experience the world. Advocates believe in accommodating and respecting these differences, promoting inclusion, and challenging societal norms that prioritise neurotypical behaviours. Rather than viewing neurodivergent traits as deficits, neurodiversity encourages recognizing the strengths and unique perspectives that neurodivergent individuals contribute to society, fostering acceptance, understanding, and support for all individuals regardless of their neurological makeup.

Parent Survey Results

Many thanks to all parents that took the time to complete our parent survey earlier this month, over 200 parents took part. An overview of key results are as follows:



Year 11

With exams just around the corner, we understand the stress students feel due the pressures of school. That is why we are offering a free breakfast and a free school lunch to every year 11. As a school we want to make sure all of our year 11 students have a nutritious meal, which can enhance their overall health and well-being and aid their concentration and cognitive function, leading to a better academic performance. This is also in place to encourage students to arrive at school on time and attend regularly. Some students may skip breakfast due to various reasons such as rushing to catch the bus or financial constraints. By offering free breakfast at school, students are more likely to arrive early, allowing for a smoother start to the school day and potentially improving attendance rates.



We have also excitedly launched Prom 2024!

This will take place on the 27th of June 2024. Prom will serve as a celebration of the students' achievements and accomplishments throughout their time at LeAF. It's a time for students to reflect on their academic, extracurricular, and personal growth while celebrating their successes with friends, classmates, and teachers.

As much as we understand the importance of Prom, we still need to promote outstanding behaviour during the school day. This is why we also launched '9 lives to Prom.' This is to encourage students to attend interventions, complete homework and keep behaviour expectations high. Students can lose a life if they are issued a referral from any lesson, do not attend a detention, display continuous disruptive behaviour, or have incomplete homework. So far, this strategy has been a success and a motivating tool to encourage good behaviour and attitude towards learning leading up to live exams.

PSHE

This term at LeAF Studio in PSHE, students have been engaging in a wide range of sessions covering topics such as 'Life Saving Skills' in Year 9 and 'Staying Physically Healthy' in Year 10. We have had assemblies each week on events such as 'International Women's Day' and religious festivals like Ramadan and Easter. Students in Year 9 and 10 will also be participating in 'IT Day' on Wednesday 27th March where they will be engaging in three sessions designed to improve their IT proficiency to prepare them for the future.

Pastoral & Heads of Year

Please can parents remember your child's tutor should be the first point of contact for any concerns followed by Heads of Year.



Mrs Kempton leaves us at Easter to start her maternity leave, therefore Mrs Bellot will be focusing on the high priority safeguard cases across all four LeAF sites, so will not be available as the first point of contact.

Online Safety

YouTube

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13 (however, children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids if enabled by a parent/legal guardian).

What if my child is under the age of 13?
If your child is under the age of 13 then your child should use either YouTube Kids or a Supervised Account. Which option you choose, will depend on your child's age and your requirements.

- **YouTube Kids** – this is a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age you select:
 - Preschool (ages four and under)
 - Younger (ages 5–8)
 - Older (ages 9–12)
- **Supervised accounts** – this is a parent-managed version of YouTube. You can select one of the following options, again depending on your child's age and your requirements:
 - **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
 - **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+.
 - **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything on YouTube except for videos marked as 18+ and other videos that may not be appropriate for viewers using supervised experiences.

Google have created a table to show the differences between YouTube Kids and a Supervised account to help in your decision:
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

Posting videos
You should be over 13 to post videos. If your child does post videos on YouTube, ensure they understand what information they should keep private and what to do if they receive negative comments. Talk to them about the different settings available -

1. Public: anyone can view the video.
2. Private: video can only be viewed by users that you select.
3. Unlisted: only people who have the link to the video can view it.

YouTube have produced these safety tips for teens when posting content:
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244>

How can I make YouTube safer?

- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.
- **Restricted mode** - is an additional setting (when logged in via a Google account) to restrict the availability of mature content.
- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content/comments**. Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802027>.

A Guide to the Online Safety Bill

The Online Safety Bill is a new set of laws to protect people online. The laws will make social media companies more responsible for the safety of their users on their platforms. The Government have created a guide to the new laws detailing how the laws will protect children and adults. For example, the new laws mean social media companies will have to show how they are enforcing age limits.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-online-safety-bill>

YouTube Content Warning

The INEQE Safeguarding Group have published a report warning about the YouTube cartoon series called Jeffy. Due to the content being animated, viewers may believe that it is suitable for children to watch when in fact the content is inappropriate. You can find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2023/11/09/safeguarding-update-youtube-cartoon-jeffy>

World Events

There are a lot of distressing events happening around the world, which your child may see online. Childnet have published an article discussing how you can support your child when they see something worrying or upsetting online. The article also directs you to other organisations that you can contact if you require further help and support:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/navigating-violent-online-content-from-global-events/>

Keep up to date with us on socials

 <p>LeAF Studio</p>	 <p>rockley</p>	 <p>BAMM BOURNEMOUTH ACADEMY OF MODERN MUSIC</p>	 <p>The DORSET SCHOOL OF ACTING BE BRAVE. BE BRIGHT. BE BRILLIANT.</p>
@leafstudioschool	@rockleycollege	@bamm_music_college	@dorsetschoolofacting

Student Voice

We as a Student Voice are here for the sole purpose of ensuring everybody is safe and happy at LeAF Studio. We meet at various points throughout the year with staff members to go through a set agenda, containing points raised by students across all year groups including LS6.

We discuss internal issues and suggest ways that we feel the school could be improved. We believe in creating a comfortable environment where everybody has a place to express themselves as they wish and have their points listened to without judgement.

This academic year, we have implemented a student friendly online form where students can make reports to senior staff about incidents where they hear or see something in the school which they are not comfortable with. We decided to implement this as we are all aware that going to a teacher can be daunting and off-putting to some students. Therefore, to avoid potential problems going unnoticed, we decided to introduce this which has been used to great effect.

WHAT IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO RAISE?

Students can speak to any member of the student voice team or Mr Jones, who is the staff member present at all our meetings.

Film Studies

It is with great excitement that I share some highlights from our recent endeavours in Film Studies with our Year 9 students. In an effort to foster creativity, hone technical skills, and deepen understanding of cinematic storytelling, our students have embarked on two captivating projects.



Firstly, inspired by the acclaimed film Baby Driver, our students have dived into the world of Foley sound recording. Tasked with recreating the intricate soundscape of a scene from the film, our young filmmakers have demonstrated remarkable ingenuity and attention to detail. From mimicking the revving of engines to the subtle rustle of clothing, each sound contributes to the immersive experience of cinema. Through this hands-on exercise, students not only sharpen their auditory perception but also gain a profound appreciation for the collaborative nature of filmmaking.

Secondly, our aspiring screenwriters have been hard at work crafting their own cinematic narratives. From action-packed adventures to poignant dramas, the imagination knows no bounds in the realm of storytelling. Through the process of writing their own screenplays, students delve into the intricacies of character development, plot structure, and dialogue. Moreover, they have the opportunity to explore themes that resonate with their own experiences and aspirations. This creative endeavour not only enriches their understanding of the filmmaking process but also empowers them to find their voice as storytellers in the digital age.

Training Fund

With ever increasing pressures on school budgets, we are now more than ever reliant on parental support through our Training Fund. If you unaware of this, we ask parents to commit to a regular £5 a month payment to support the specialisms in purchasing vital equipment that they need for both Sport and Stage & Screen.

All money raised through this charitable venture is reserved exclusively for the specialisms and cannot be spent on anything else in the school, so parents can be secure in the knowledge that their contributions are going directly to support their children.

The level of training and coaching we offer is usually only reserved for private schools, and so as a state school (that is completely free to attend) we do rely on the Training Fund to support us as we develop our specialism training. In the academic year so far it has already raised over £3000 which has been spent on your children.

What do you need to do?

If you can do so, please set up a standing order via your online banking using the details to the right. If you can, please do this and help us support your young people. Thank you in advance for your support.

Bank: Lloyds Bank
Account Name: LeAF Studio School
Sort Code: 30-91-08
Account Number: 58638468
Reference: LSTF (pupil name)

Upcoming Events Calendar

28 th March	Last day of term - 12.15pm finish for all students
15 th April	8.35am School reopens to all
6 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed to all
7 th May	Yr11 & 13 – Live GCSE Exams begin
13 th & 14 th May	Yr12 – Performing Arts Exam
27 th - 31 st May	Half Term – School closed to all
3 rd June	8.35am School reopens to all
21 st June	Last Live Exam
27 th June	Y11 Prom Night
3 rd & 4 th July	End of Year Show Rehearsals
5 th July	Inset Day – School closed to all
8 th – 18 th July	Y12 Work Experience
15 th – 18 th July	Y10 Work Experience
19 th July	Last day of term – 12.30 finish for all students

I would like to wish all parents, carers, and students a lovely Easter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs N Lapskas
Principal
LeAF Studio School

