



**LEES BROOK  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL**

# *Keeping in Touch*

Lees Brook Community School's  
Newsletter for Parents

A Founding Member of the Northworthy Trust

July 2019

Dear Parent

## **Keeping in Touch**

Once again, this has been a really positive year for the school, Lees Brook is always a really busy place and this year has been no different!

## **Careers at Lees Brook**

Lees Brook is committed for all students to have activities relating to careers and this year has been extremely busy. Careers opportunities with employers is a particular strength of the school. I believe strongly that these opportunities are vital as they raise the personal aspirations of our students and develop the skills that employers are looking for.

There have been so many extra-curricular activities and opportunities to tell you about that I have put them into a separate booklet this time. Lees Brook is a very busy place with lots of opportunities for students; this year we have ran an incredible amount of in and out of school events.

One of the (many) highlights from this year was the winning of the Big Bang Trophy. One of our groups of students created an app to improve the independence of visually impaired travellers – it would organise a person's journey completely, from home to destination. This idea won the group, the regional competition and entry into the national competition in March 2019. What an amazing achievement.

Last week, we had an enterprise day for Year 7 students with visiting employers. The staff and employers were astounded by the quality and creativity of the ideas developed by the students. Also on the 10<sup>th</sup> July, a group of Year 8 students won the 'Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire' challenge at Derby University by creating a lunar module. They won a fabulous trophy and some Teach with Space Astro PI kit which they have on space stations! At all of these events we are always in awe at the skills, creativity and talent shown by our amazing Lees Brook students. I am very proud of all of them.

Next year is already looking exciting and we have activities planned that will involve students in all year groups. A massive thank you has to go to all the businesses that have supported Lees Brook this year, without their continued support and enthusiasm these activities could not take place.

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

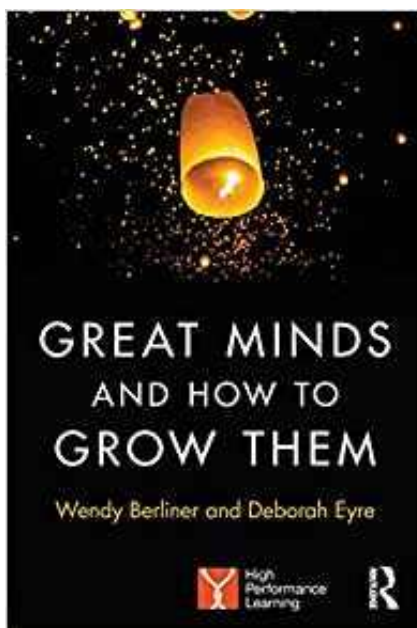
This year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has seen record numbers of students taking part. One hundred and fifteen Year 9 students enrolled onto the Bronze Award and twenty five Year 10 students have progressed onto the Silver Award, a 32% increase on numbers from last year. This makes Lees Brook one of the largest providers for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Derby, and importantly, we have one of the highest completion rates for the award in the city as well.

In recognition of this success, earlier in the year Mr Waterhouse and I were invited to Buckingham Palace to attend the Gold Award presentations, as special regional guests for Central England. It was a privilege to meet the Earl of Wessex and hear inspirational stories from other guests, including Paralympian, Marc Woods.

The Gold Award can only be completed by students over the age of 16. However, we would love to see Lees Brook students visiting Buckingham Palace in the future to receive their Gold awards after completing Bronze and Silver at school!

### **High Performance Learning**

Over the last year a core group of staff have been working on their understanding and delivery of High Performance Learning (HPL). This is a program developed by Professor Deborah Eyre who is a global educational leader, academic researcher, writer and influencer. HPL is a research-based, pedagogy led philosophy that responds to a growing understanding of human capability. It sees all students as potential high performers who are not limited by 'ability'. Some may take longer to reach high performance but most are capable over time. HPL makes the goal of high performance the expectation for all students in the school and uses a unique teaching and learning framework to systematically grow minds and develop the cognitive skills, values, attitudes and attributes needed to reach success.



We need to produce students who can think for themselves, who are socially confident, and who have the skills to succeed at college, work and in life. High Performance Learning's core belief - that that we should expect many more students to reach high academic levels - is a game-changer for students. Students who are educated in schools committed to the High Performance Learning philosophy and approach not only achieve higher academic results but they also develop the characteristics of high performance that enable them to succeed in life. They:

- are encouraged and empowered to succeed.
- trust that, with work, their school will help them achieve highly.
- develop the values and skills they need to be college, work and life-ready.

From September we are launching this program with all staff and students. If you would like to find out more we would recommend a book written by Deborah Eyre that has an abundance of clear, simple but effective steps parents can take to harness the development of their children. We also have a team of staff in school whose remit it will be to inform you of our progress over the coming months.

### **School Planners**

Following a discussion and feedback with the school council, the planner system will change in September. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will still use the same style school planner, however students in Years 10 and 11 will be using a more formal, calendar style diary. This gives them more independence and flexibility to organise key information. It also reflects more closely the world of work that they will soon be entering.

## **Class Charts**

We now have over 80% of parents using the Class Charts app and 96% of students have accessed the app. It is an excellent resource that we want to encourage all parents and students to be using from September. From this point on, all homework and detentions will be logged on Class Charts primarily rather than in the school planner.

## **Dress code**

The dress code is in the planner, on the website and is part of this newsletter. Please take time to read it again before purchasing any new uniform this summer. Some concerns that have crept in are short black skirts. As a reminder, skirts must not be more than 2" above the knee and must not be tight or made of a stretchy material. Similarly shoes must be formal in style, not a black trainer. Jumpers (especially hoodies) are not part of the dress code and will be confiscated if worn. If you are unsure about an item, please contact the school before spending any money.

## **Lees Brook New PE kit information**

From September, Year 8 - 11 students will have their current PE kit gradually phased out as and when new items are required. Whereas the Year 7 will have the new compulsory PE kit, which is available to buy now at Morleys in Chaddesden.

As a school we have decided to upgrade the PE kit to a higher quality uniform with alternative items to buy in order to suit individual preferences. This is with the hope of ensuring students are comfortable in their PE kit whilst encouraging a sense of unity and pride when wearing this uniform.

If students do need new PE clothing for September then, can we advise that you purchase the new PE items from Morleys. Please see the list attached.

## **Equipment**

Students are expected to bring in to school the correct equipment every day. This includes pens (red and black/blue), pencil, ruler, rubber, calculator, protractor, glue stick, planner and language dictionary. The books, kit and other equipment students will need for the day need to be carried in a suitable bag that is large enough to hold A4 folders. To help with organisation, it is helpful if you can provide your child with folders that they can use for looking after work and homework.

## **Work Experience**

Congratulations to Year 10 students who have been out on work experience recently; we have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from the employers with many stating that they would employ the students straight away if they were available! Work experience is a really valuable experience for our students and helps Year 10 to realise the importance of working hard and their academic results for their career paths in the future.

## **Calm Harm - NHS**

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Calm Harm is based on the principles of dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT). DBT is a type of talking therapy that's often effective in people with mood disorders. The app provides tasks that encourage users to distract themselves from urges to self-harm and help manage their "emotional mind" in a more positive way. Please note that the app is an aid to treatment, but doesn't replace it. <https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/calm-harm/#>

## Goodbyes to staff

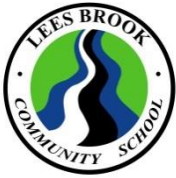
It is the time of year when we say goodbye to some staff in school. Many thanks to Mr Tidyman and Miss Haughian who have been with us this year. Mrs Kirk and Miss Lancaster are also moving to new posts in September. Congratulations to Miss Zagan who has a new teaching post and to Miss Bradbury who is going to teach full time at Merrill Academy from September. We are delighted for Miss Woodberry and Miss Lebat who have been offered posts as Directors of subject areas in other schools. Mr Kershaw is also leaving this September having been at the school for 16 years. Mr and Mrs Shaw are retiring after 36 years at Lees Brook! I think there will be a lot of people reading this who will remember them and have probably been taught by one of them! We wish everyone the best in all their future endeavours!

It just remains for me to wish all the students a happy and safe summer holiday; school finishes at 1.30pm on Thursday 25th July. Exam results day is Thursday 22nd August and results will be available for Year 11 students at 10.00am. The school has an INSET days on Friday 6th September, therefore students will return to school on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe House". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z'.

Zoe House  
Headteacher



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

### 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

THE SCHOOL YEAR	
Autumn Term	*Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Half Term Holiday	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Spring Term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February
Summer Term	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> July
Half Term Holiday	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May
May Bank Holiday	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May

\*Please note students return on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September due to a Staff Development Training Day

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING DAYS	
INSET Day 1	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
INSET Day 2	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September
INSET Day 3	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
INSET Day 4	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
INSET Day 5	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June

EVENTS AND MEETINGS		
	School Photographer	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September
	Winter Fair and Christmas Market	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 7	Year 7 Form Tutor Evening	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
	Year 7 Grade Reports issued	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
	Year 7 Subject Evening (Grade Reports issued)	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
	Year 7 Form Tutor Evening (Reports issued)	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 8	Year 8 Form Tutor Evening	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
	Year 8 Grade Reports issued	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
	Year 8 Subject Evening (Grade Reports issued)	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
	Year 8 Form Tutor Evening (Reports issued)	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 9	Year 9 Form Tutor Evening	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November
	Year 9 Grade Reports issued	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
	Year 9 Subject & Options Evening	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February
	Year 9 Form Tutor Evening (Reports issued)	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 10	Year 10 Subject Evening (Grade Reports issued)	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> January
	Year 10 Subject Evening (Grade Reports issued)	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
	Year 10 Revision Evening	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May
	Year 10 Trial Exams	Begin Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
	Year 10 Form Tutor Evening (Reports issued)	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 11	Year 11 Revision & Post 16 Open Evening for parents	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October
	Year 11 Trial Exams	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
	Year 11 Subject Evening (Grade Reports issued)	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January
	Year 11 PiXL Exams (English & Maths)	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February
	Year 11 Subject Evening (Grade Reports issued)	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
	Year 11 GCSE Exams	Begin Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May
	Year 11 Prom	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June
Post 16	Skills Academy Welcome Evening	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September
	Skills Academy Student Progress Evening	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December
	Skills Academy Student Progress Evening	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April

## **School Uniform**

The school's uniform policy is designed to encourage a purposeful and effective climate for learning. It is expected that all 11-16 students wear full uniform at all times, unless directed otherwise by staff. All students should be smart, take pride in their appearance and dress appropriately within the ethos of a formal, academic working environment. All students should be aware that they represent the school when wearing the uniform both in and out of school.

**Wearing clothing that conforms to the uniform is a condition of admission into the school.**

Please do not allow your youngster to tell you that any of these can be compromised. It puts the school in a difficult position when we have to ring home and ask for an item of uniform to be replaced.

### **BLACK BLAZER**

The black uniform blazer with the school logo on the pocket must be worn at all times. It must be clean and smart. Damaged blazers must be repaired or replaced. Jumpers and cardigans are not permitted.

### **WHITE SHIRT**

A formal style white shirt with a stiffened collar must be worn under the blazer; it must be plain white with no logo of any kind. Shirts must not be see-through or tight fitting. Collars must not be worn up around the neck; shirts must be tucked into skirts and trousers all the way round and not just tucked in at the front. Coloured T-shirts must not be worn beneath the shirt.

### **SCHOOL TIE**

The school tie in the correct year group colour must be worn in a smart manner at all times. Ties must not be decorated with badges, pins, clips etc. If a student forgets their tie, they must borrow one from the school until theirs is replaced.

Year group colours: Year 11 – Silver, Year 10 – Gold, Year 9 – Green, Year 8 – Blue, Year 7 – Red.

### **BLACK SKIRTS**

Skirts must be plain black and of a formal cut. They must be no shorter than 2" above the knee, not tight and/or made of a stretchy material. Ankle length skirts are not permitted for safety reasons.

### **BLACK TROUSERS**

Trousers must be plain black and full length. Jeans, tracksuit bottoms and leggings/jeggings are not permitted (trousers with studs on will be classed as jeans).

**BELTS** must be black with a standard buckle.

### **SHOES**

Shoes must be of a formal style and plain black (the rim around the shoe must also be black).

Boots, canvas shoes, trainers or trainer type shoes will not be permitted. Heels must be no higher than 3 centimetres.

\*Boots can only be worn when there is snow or ice on the ground.

### **SOCKS**

Black socks must be worn with trousers. White or black socks, plain black or flesh coloured tights (patterned tights are not permitted) should be worn with skirts.

### **OUTDOOR COATS**

Outdoor coats must be smart and a dark colour; not display any offensive logos and taken off in all lessons. Less formal items, such as hooded tops and tracksuit tops are not permitted.

### **BAGS**

Bags must be big enough to hold an A4 folder. No offensive slogans, symbols or badges on bags, books or folders.

### **HAIR**

Extreme hairstyles or coloured hair are not permitted. In certain lessons, long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons. Shaved patterns and tram lines are not permitted.

### **MAKE UP**

A minimum amount of make-up is allowed eg light foundation and mascara. Students will be told to remove excessive make-up. Lipstick is not permitted.

### **NAIL VARNISH**

Only neutral or clear varnish is allowed. Nail extensions are not permitted.

### **JEWELLERY**

Only one pair of modest sized ear studs and a wrist watch are allowed. A letter from parents requesting permission is required for any medical or religious items. All jewellery must be removed for PE and Dance lessons.

### **BODY PIERCINGS**

No body, tongue or face piercings are allowed even if they are covered with retainers or plasters.

## School PE Kit

### PE required items

Black Lees Brook logo round neck t-shirt	Essential
Black Lees Brook logo shorts or skort	Essential
Black socks	Essential
Trainers	Essential – trainers used for indoor lessons must be clean
Black Lees Brook logo Jumper ~ <i>It should also be noted that this will be the only jumper allowed</i>	Optional (however this is recommended during colder weather as lessons will still take place outside)
Black long sleeve base layer top	Optional (however this is recommended during colder weather as lessons will still take place outside)
Plain black sport leggings or black with minimal discrete logo	Optional (plain black cotton leggings are not acceptable)
Plain black tracksuit bottoms or black with minimal discrete logo	Optional
Outdoor studded boots	Optional but recommended for football and rugby (moulded or plastic studs only – no metal studs)
Shin pads	Optional but recommended for football and rugby
Mouth guards	Optional but recommended for rugby (boys only)

**Please note ALL students have to bring and wear kit for all PE lessons, this is regardless whether they are a performer or a non-performer.**