



Keeping in Touch

Lees Brook Community School's
Newsletter for Parents

A Founding Member of the Northworthy Trust

September 2019

Dear Parent

Results

For the 3rd year in a row, Lees Brook results show a fantastic improvement and that Lees Brook continues to go from strength to strength. I cannot tell you how proud I am of how well the students have done.

The percentage of students achieving a grade 4 in both English and Maths has jumped from 52% in 2017 to 62% in 2018 and now to an incredible 70% this year. English exceeded all expectations, 82% got a grade 4 in either English Language or Literature. Maths also made huge improvements, with 75% of students gaining a grade 4 (up from 65% last year.) Overall 87% of students achieved a grade 4 in either English or Maths. 39% percent of students also achieved a grade 5+ in both English and Maths.

There have been outstanding individual performances, with one student in particular achieving 8 level 9s and a level 8; this is a phenomenal achievement and will be amongst some of the best results nationally. Another student (as well as achieving 6 level 9 grades) scored 291/300 across three maths papers – an impressive 97% of all marks possible.

The number of students achieving a grade 9 has also increased again this year. In 2018, we started with 20 level 9 grades which was increased to 28 through remarks. This year, we have had 30 level 9 grades through the initial results. I am hopeful that this will again increase after remarks.

This has been another successful year for the school and there are plans in place to ensure the improvement to continue this year. I would like to say a special thank you to yourselves as parents, staff and students who have worked exceptionally hard to achieve an excellent set of results.

Artsmark

I am thrilled to be able to tell you that we have been awarded the Artsmark GOLD award. This is the only creative quality standard for schools and educational settings and is accredited by Arts Council England. It supports schools to develop and celebrate their commitment to arts and cultural education. The award is national recognition of the amazing expressive arts opportunities that we offer to our students. A huge well done to all the staff and students who have contributed to this award, but especially to our expressive arts team in school.

Curriculum maps

On the school website you will find information about what students will be studying for each subject in every year group. You will find this under the 'curriculum' tab at the top of the website. Please take time to have a look at the topics/skills your child will be covering and if you have any queries or questions, please contact the Learning Director of the subject area.

Homework

All homework will be recorded on Class Charts. Students are no longer required to write homework in their planner but will still be provided with a planner or diary so that they can make additional notes if required.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be using a traditional school planner and students in Years 10 and 11 have been issued with an academic diary. The academic diary for the older students will allow more flexibility and prepare them for a more work based format in preparation for when they leave school.

Homework is an important part of your child's education at Lees Brook, it promotes independence, resilience and extends the learning from the classroom. We place great importance on homework and I hope that you will support your child to ensure that homework is completed to the best of their ability.

If you have any concerns about the amount of homework that your child is receiving, please contact your child's subject teacher.

Open Evening

On Thursday 26th September we are holding an open evening for prospective parents to find out more about our school. This is an important evening for the school and we are asking students to come back in the evening to help in subject areas or act as guides for parents. This evening is an excellent opportunity for parents to see Year 11 students completing additional GCSE work in curriculum areas.

I have attached a consent letter for your information and if your youngster is able to support us on this evening, please complete the letter and ask them to return it to Student Services.

Staffing changes

I have made some changes to the responsibilities of my senior leadership team to reflect the changes to the new OFSTED framework. There is now a 'Quality of Education' category which focuses on intent, implementation and impact; this incorporates curriculum, teaching and learning and outcomes. The new OFSTED framework also now has a greater emphasis on personal development, such as careers guidance, healthy living, citizenship and extra-curricular opportunities.

The senior leadership team now have the following responsibilities:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Quality of Education | Steve Smith, Mark Hatton, Steve Geary, Chris Gates |
| Behaviour and Attitudes to Learning | Katy Heffern, Dave Brown |
| Personal Development | Katy Heffern, Katy Hatton, Rebecca Rudkin |
| Safeguarding | Sarah Hadwin |
| Special Educational Needs | James Hatton |

We have also welcomed a number of new staff into the school:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eleanor Gregson | Teacher of Music |
| Glenn Thompson | Teacher of Maths |
| Meredith Riley | Teacher of Maths |
| Svetlana Clark | Teacher of Maths |
| Stephen Fox | Teacher of Maths |
| Daniela de Silva | Teacher of Science |
| Gemma Livingstone | Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages |
| Hannah Barratt | Teacher of Humanities |
| Yasmin Henchcliffe | Teacher of PE |
| Alison Pickard | Science technician |

School improvements

You will probably have read in the media that funding for schools continues to be a problem and that certainly applies to Lees Brook. I am pleased to tell you, however, that over the summer, I have been able to spend some money to improve the school environment for students. Our amazing site maintenance team have painted the corridors and classrooms using a different colour for each faculty area. There have been some interesting discussions between students and staff about the choice of colours but everyone agrees that the school looks a lot brighter and fresher for the work.

Your youngster may have told you that we have been re-scanning fingerprints for the cashless catering system. This has been necessary because the catering system software has been upgraded to speed up the process at break and lunch times for students to pay.

I have been able to buy new tables for some of the science rooms and new stools for the majority of the other science rooms. This was much needed and, along with the painting has significantly improved the learning environment in Science.

And Finally

I am committed to working hard to ensure that Lees Brook continues to be a success. I am very proud of how far we have come over the last few years but I know we still have work to do. I am looking forward to continuing our school improvement journey with yourselves, our dedicated staff and most of all, our wonderful students.

Yours faithfully



Zoe House
Headteacher



September 2019

Dear Parent

Open Evening – Thursday 26 September

On Thursday 26 September, we are holding our Open Evening for Year 6 pupils and their parents. Other prospective parents are also welcome to attend.

Classrooms will be open and activities will be taking place in all areas. As in the past, we are asking our students to volunteer to work in those areas during the evening. Those interested will need to be at school for 6.00pm, wearing their normal school uniform, and will be able to leave no later than 8.30pm.

Your son/daughter has volunteered to take part in the Open Evening and I would be grateful if you could fill in the form below to confirm you know about this and have given your permission for them to participate in this activity.

Yours faithfully

Gemma Kendall
Head of Year 7

Please return to Miss Kendall via Student Services, Lees Brook Community School, Morley Road, Chaddesden, Derby

Name of Student: _____ Tutor Group _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Open Evening on Thursday 26 September from 6.00pm – 8.30pm.

Preferred subject area to work in (e.g. English, Technology, Guide,)

Choice 1 _____

Choice 2 _____

Signed _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date _____

N.B. If there is an agreement or prior arrangement between a student and a subject teacher (e.g. a student has to be placed in ICT because they are doing coursework), please get that teacher to initial the reply slip next to Choice 1.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

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

*Please note students return on Monday 9th September due to a Staff Development Training Day

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

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