

22 July 2021

Dear Parent

### **Year 10 - End of Summer Term and Academic Year 2020/21**

Firstly, I wanted to express my immense pride and gratitude for the way that all Year 10 students have conducted themselves this school year. Having had so much disruption to their schooling over the last two academic years, they've shown immeasurable resilience and embraced the changes we have had to make, in order to keep the school safe for everybody. Every student has something to be proud of this academic year – whether it is in terms of their behaviour, attendance, academic attainment, or a combination of all three. I continue to be incredibly proud of every student in the Year group and it goes without saying that it has been a very strange year at Lees Brook. Covid-19 has had an impact on almost every aspect of school life and staff and students have had to get used to working in ways that have felt very different.

Year 10 mock exams were an eye opening experience for many in the Year group, as it was the first opportunity for the students to experience a formal examination process. They deserve immense praise for how they behaved and engaged with the process over the two week period. Hopefully, the results will allow students to reflect on areas they need to improve on ready for their final examinations – which are only nine months away. I want to congratulate those students that spent time revising and putting in the extra time to achieve well in their mocks, knowing how important it is to gain that valuable feedback from their teachers to push them on to the next level. Students who are disappointed with the results should remember that learning is not a sprint to the end. Sometimes it takes time to be fully ready to sit GCSE exams.

During the year many students in Year 10 have had careers meetings and this guidance will continue into Year 11 to allow those who are still unsure about what to do in the future to gain some inspiration and knowledge as to what is available. As parents, please start to look out for the open days/information events at sixth forms, colleges, and apprenticeship providers that will start to come thick and fast in the next few months.

Looking ahead to next year, students will return to school the week beginning Monday 6th September 2021. Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September are INSET days and the school will be closed to students. Next year there will be a number of changes to school systems and more information about these will follow in due course. For students, I expect that these changes will be welcomed and allow them to take part in the wide range of extracurricular and study support opportunities that they have not been able to access throughout this year.

One change that I want to mention specifically is the pastoral support for the Year group. This will be in harmony with other schools across the Archway Learning Trust and offer students and parents greater access to the pastoral support we provide in school day-to-day. In September, the school will no longer have teaching Heads of Year. Instead, these roles will be fulfilled by non-teaching Year Leaders who will introduce themselves at the beginning of the new academic year. I already know what a fantastic group of students they will be working with and look forward to seeing all students making a positive first impression in September.

Unfortunately this year, we will be saying farewell to an amazing form tutor from our Year 10 team – Miss Atkinson. I am sure students in her tutor group and their parents will thank her for the incredible support and encouragement she has given to the form since they joined in Year 7. I have the privilege of taking over from her as their new form tutor and I am very excited to continue to work with this Year group. The form tutors for most other tutor groups will be remaining the same as they have been this year:

Year 10 Tutor Group Name	Year 8 Form Tutor	Year 8 Tutor Group Name
10GAC	Mr Gates	11GAC
10SIK	Miss Siviter	11SIK
10HIG	Miss Hill	11HIG
10AUE	Miss Tallis/Mrs Gaughan	11TAJ
10RAN	Miss Randle	11RAN
10JOV	Miss Jones	11JOV
10DAH	Mrs Davies	11DAH
10ATE	Mr Taylor	11TAB

As ever, it is vitally important that your child is set up for success when they return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Please ensure that your child has all the necessary uniform, PE/dance kit, and other equipment that they will need for learning. This is especially important going into their final exam year. I am sure you are aware of the required items by now – however if you would like to check, full details are available via our website: [http://leesbrook.co.uk/images/Websitefiles/2021/GeneralInformation/School\\_brochure\\_2021.pdf](http://leesbrook.co.uk/images/Websitefiles/2021/GeneralInformation/School_brochure_2021.pdf)

As this will be the final letter that I'll be writing to you all in my capacity as Head of Year, I wanted to express how much of an honor and a privilege it has been to have worked with so many phenomenal young people over the last three years. There have been highs and lows and I've seen so many of them grow and change into young people with great potential to affect change in our society. It is with great sadness that I won't get to finish the journey with them in my current capacity.

The last year and half has been tough on everyone in society, but none more so than on the young people that have missed so much time in school to be around friends and family and to live with the worry of what happens next. But they have been incredibly resilient this year and I would suggest that this proves they can tackle the many hurdles life will throw at them in the future.

I'd also like to thank Mrs. Smith, the Year 10 Learning Behaviour Manager who has made a massive difference to the support we've been able to offer the students in our care. She is the calm, measured voice always there to lend a supportive ear to the students. I will miss working with her every day.

As the students know, I can be emotional at times and I have incredibly high standards. Getting frustrated at them if they let themselves down, being incredibly proud at their achievements, and shedding a tear with them during those difficult times faced on their learning journey as young people. They are my school family and will continue to be so.

Finally, I'd like to thank you as parents for your support over the last three years to get your son/daughter to the position they are today. Your support has been vital on so many occasions. Together we can achieve great success no matter what that looks like for our young people. I wish you and your family a happy and safe summer holiday and I look forward to seeing all students back in school in September.

Yours sincerely



**Ben Taylor**  
Head of Year 10