

25 March 2021

Dear Parent

Spring Term 2020-21 Newsletter

I am writing to you toward the end of what has been another strange term within schools up and down the country. I've been incredible proud once again of the incredible resilience shown by this group of students. They've had to manage another 8-week period of partial school closures in one of the most important years of their school lives with GCSE preparations well and truly underway. As a year group, Year 10 engaged positively in the remote learning that was provided during this time and continued their excellent start to their GCSE studies. As a school we are very proud of the provision that was put in place for our students through live lessons via Microsoft Teams and I'd like to thank parents and students for the positive comments received regarding the provision. The staff in school worked tirelessly to create lessons that were engaging, challenging and as normal as possible to the curriculum that students would have received in the classroom and were a credit to the school.

This half term, we've started talking about the importance of revision and beginning to prepare for Year 10's future exams. Early revision is a key to success and their final exams will be here before we know it. As a school we have sent revision guides out to all Year 10 students to help them with extra study towards their exams. At present the government have made no plans to alter examinations for the Year 10 cohort, so we must prepare as normal for their final exams. The work students have done over the remote learning period will stand them in good stead to continue to make progress in their education now we are back. But student's attitudes to learning in the classroom are also vitally important to continue this forward momentum. Every lesson will build towards students being as successful as possible in their GCSE's so we cannot afford any dips in effort, behaviour or concentration. Please can I ask you to speak to your son/daughter about the importance of this period and to take advantage of the opportunities to learn and grow in the time they have left. I do not want any students to leave without knowing they did their very best to achieve what they deserved and fulfilled their fantastic potential as young people.

Since returning to the classroom on Monday 8 March, attendance and behaviour within the year group has been positive. But can I remind parents Year 10 must be at school for 9.15am with lessons starting at 9.30am. If students come late they risk breaking our strict bubble system in school, which keeps students, staff and our community safe. 98% of all points awarded on Class Charts have been positive. Over 13,000 points have been issued to the year group for meeting learning expectations and over 2600 points have been awarded in recognition of students going above and beyond expectations in lessons. As I mentioned in my autumn newsletter, Class Charts is a very powerful tool for tracking your child's reward and behaviour points as well as attendance – as it provides a live feed and allows you to see how your child has been progressing throughout the school day. If you have not used it yet, I would strongly encourage you to do so. Do contact me if you have any queries about this.

Progress Reports & Subject Evening

Thank you to all parents that attended subject evening, this term. I hope you found it beneficial and had the chance to learn how your son/daughter has been progressing in lessons. Subject teachers are always available to answer any queries and concerns you may have during the term. Please don't hesitate to contact them. You should have received a copy of your child's recent progress report – which will give you an insight into how well they are progressing in their different subjects. The report includes their target grades and teacher's current predicted attainment levels. There is a planned parents evening with your child's form tutor later this academic year (date below) to discuss your child's overall progress throughout their first year of GCSE work.

Uniform and Equipment

Most students in the year group are maintaining a very smart appearance and arrive at school in the correct uniform every day. However, there are a small number who are currently not wearing correct uniform. I appreciate that it has not been as easy as usual to get replacement uniform, due to non-essential retail being closed – however this is set to reopen as of Monday 12 April. All students are expected to be in correct uniform when they return to school on Tuesday 20 April.

Additionally, now the weather has become warmer, students have been reminded that non-uniform items (such as jumpers and hoodies) and outdoor coats should not be worn in classrooms. Students will be expected to take these off upon arrival if worn to school and any students not doing so should expect to have these items confiscated. Students must have a school blazer and wear this to school. I would appreciate it if you could reinforce this message with your child at home.

As with uniform – most students are arriving well equipped for learning each day. The Easter holiday provides an ideal opportunity to make sure your child has all the equipment they need to be able to make the most of every lesson. As a reminder, the basic equipment needed by all students includes: a pencil case, pens (black/blue and red), a fine whiteboard pen, a highlighter pen, a pencil, a 30cm ruler, a scientific calculator, a maths set, colouring pencils, felt tip pens, a glue stick, an eraser and a pencil sharpener. They will also require a reading book.

Key Dates for Year 10

Date	Event
Thursday 1 April	End of Spring term for students
Friday 2 April	Bank Holiday – Good Friday
Monday 19 April	INSET Day
Tuesday 20 April	Start of Summer term (half-term 5/6)
Friday 28 May	End of term – start of half-term holiday
Monday 7 June	Start of half-term 6/6
Monday 21 June	Start of Year 10 Mock Exams (Proposed dates)
Thursday 15 July	Form Tutor Parents Evening
Friday 23 July	End of school year

I look forward to writing to you again later this year to share some updates on how the year group are progressing and I look forward to celebrating the achievements of a highly successful group of students as they approach the end of their penultimate year at Lees Brook. For now, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Yours faithfully



Ben Taylor
Head of Year 10