

25 March 2021

Dear Parent

Spring Term 2020-21 Newsletter

I am writing to you toward the end of what has been yet another strange term within schools up and down the country. This term started with an 8-week period of partial school closures, and I was once again proud of the incredible resilience shown by this group of students. As a year group, Year 7 engaged positively in the remote learning that was provided during this time. We are very proud of our ability to continue to deliver high quality live lessons via Microsoft Teams throughout this period and we have received many positive comments from students and parents about this provision. I have no doubt that this will stand Year 7 in good stead to continue to make progress as they continue their education back in school. I am sure you all join me in hoping that no further periods of lockdown or partial school closure will be necessary going forward.

Since returning to the classroom on Monday 8 March, attendance and behaviour within the year group has been extremely positive. 99% of all points awarded on Class Charts have been positive. Over 10,000 points have been issued to the year group for meeting learning expectations and over 4,000 points have been awarded in recognition of students going beyond expectations. 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

Unfortunately, the planned subject evening had to be cancelled on Thursday 18 March, due to an Internet outage affecting the region. This will be rescheduled for a later date and we will be in contact to let you know the new date for this as soon as it is confirmed. You should have already received a copy of your child's recent progress report – which will give you an insight into how well your child is progressing in their different subjects. You will be able to discuss this at the rearranged subject evening with your child's teachers. There is also a planned parents evening with your child's form tutor later this academic year (date below) to discuss your child's general and overall progress throughout their first year of secondary school.

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. 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 7

| 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 |
| Thursday 24 June | INSET Day |
| 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 first year at Lees Brook. For now, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Yours faithfully



Chris Moore
Head of Year 7