

29 March 2021

Dear Parent

Spring Term 2020-21 Newsletter

I am writing as we approach the end of what has been yet another strange term. We started with an 8-week period of partial school closures and yet again I was so proud of the incredible resilience shown by Year 8 students as they engaged positively with the remote learning on offer. We were very proud of our ability to continue to deliver high quality live lessons via Microsoft Teams and we have received many positive comments from students and parents about this provision. I have no doubt that this will support Year 8 students in making continued progress.

Since returning to the classroom on Monday 8 March, attendance and behaviour within the year group has been extremely positive with 98% of all points awarded on Class Charts being positive. Over 12,000 points have been issued for meeting learning expectations whilst over 2,000 points have been awarded in recognition of students making a positive contribution to lessons. Whilst behaviour in lessons is positive, I have been made aware of a few incidents recently, in the local community involving Year 8 students either on their way to school or leaving the school site. I would be grateful if you could take the time to remind your child about the importance of being respectful to members of the public and their homes.

Year 9 option choices

The options process started this term for Year 8 students in readiness for September. I would like to thank you for the time you spent watching the informational videos and for completing the online options form. Starting option subjects in year 9 is a very exciting opportunity for the students, as they take another step in their educational journey. Subject teachers have started preparation of GCSE content ready for the move to Key Stage 4, to ensure that all topics are covered thoroughly.

Please continue to encourage your child to demonstrate a hardworking and resilient approach in all subjects as this will form the foundations for their GCSE subjects. There is a parent's evening with your child's form tutor later this academic year (date below) where you will be able to discuss your child's overall progress throughout this academic year.

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 8

| 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 |
| Friday 28 May | End of term – start of half-term holiday |
| Monday 7 June | Start of half-term |
| 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



Matt Hill
Head of Year 8