

17 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Autumn Term 2020-21: Year 7**

As this first term draws to an end, I wanted to write to you and share just how proud I am of each and every Year 7 student on the fantastic start they have made to their time at Lees Brook. It has been another high-performing half-term in which Year 7 have amassed over 40,000 reward points and it has been a continued pleasure to see students working so hard in their lessons each day. The vast majority of students continue to be recognised for their ongoing positive attitudes to learning and meeting school expectations through receiving R1 points each day. Even more impressive is that around a third of all reward points issued are R2 and R3 rewards – issued to students that have gone above and beyond the basic expectations and so deserve that extra degree of recognition for their efforts. I am looking forward to rewarding the high number of Year 7 students with a certificate and chocolate to celebrate the achievement of those that have maintained 100% attendance and zero behaviour points so far this academic year. Usually, this is celebrated with those recipients in other year groups in an assembly with the Head Teacher – however this will unfortunately not be possible this year.

I would like to draw your attention to an increase in Year 7 students being issued with C1 points however. These relate to not meeting classroom or equipment expectations. As I mentioned in my letter last half-term, you can keep track of your child's reward and behaviour points, along with attendance via the Class Charts app. Please support your child's progress in school by reviewing this data with them and discuss both their successes and any opportunities to improve in the term ahead. Please contact the school should you need support accessing Class Charts.

Another positive that I am pleased to be able to share relates to the strong attendance that Year 7 have maintained throughout the first term of this academic year. The attendance for Year 7 has been steady at 97% throughout this term, which is well ahead of the national average attendance in state-maintained schools – currently 83.5%. This is of vital importance to students' long-term success. Studies have shown that students who have school attendance less than 90% are more likely to underachieve by at least one grade each year. If your child has had to self-isolate at any point this term, this has not impacted negatively on their school attendance figure.

Further to this, although the current restrictions in school due to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to disrupt the usual extracurricular offer available to students, it has been fantastic to see students taking part in different competitions in schools – such as creative writing and art competitions. We look to the future with optimism that we will be able to resume our usual strong offer of extracurricular opportunities just as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.



**LEES BROOK  
COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL**

Since the October half-term holiday, your child has completed baseline assessments in English, maths and science. Their performance in these assessments will be used to inform their target grades as they progress through secondary school and these will be regularly reviewed by your child's teachers. Target grades are typically based upon students' performance in their Year 6 SATs. As you will be aware however, these were not completed by current Year 7 students and so these baseline assessments have been even more important this year. As the year progresses, you will receive reports relating to your child's progress towards their personalised targets – along with information about their response to homework, effort and behaviour in lessons.

The Christmas holiday presents an ideal opportunity to ensure that your child is properly equipped for learning in their lessons. Sharing of equipment has been identified as a way that Coronavirus can be spread in schools. With that in mind, please ensure that your youngster has everything they need each day: Pens (blue/black and red); 30cm ruler; fine whiteboard pen; scientific calculator; highlighter pen; maths set; pencil and pencil sharpener; colouring pencils/felt tip pens; glue stick; eraser and reading book.

Please find a summary of key dates for Year 7 below:

Monday 4 January 2021:	INSET day
Thursday 18 March 2021:	Subject evening
Thursday 15 July 2021:	Form tutor evening

Usually, subject and form tutor evenings would take place as face-to-face meetings in school. Whilst we hope to be able to return to these as soon as it is safe to do so, it may be necessary to conduct these via telephone in-line with the government guidelines in place at the time, as per the form tutor phone calls that were made towards the end of last half-term. More information about this will be issued nearer to the time.

All that remains is for me to do is to wish you a safe and happy Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming students back in the new year. As above, please remember that Monday 4 January 2021 is an INSET day. As always, should you wish to contact me to discuss any aspect of your child's education please feel free to do so.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Moore  
**Head of Year 7**