



5 October 2020

Dear Parents,

Despite all the changes in school, we have had an exceptionally positive start to the new term, our students have been fantastic at following all the new systems and routines; the school feels very calm, settled, and safe. There is a really productive atmosphere in school, with students clearly glad to be back in with their friends and with the support of their teachers.

Staggered start and finish times

The staggered start and finish times have been working really well overall and have been effective in separating bubbles within the school. The only issue we are having is students arriving too early, the times are very specific to avoid bubbles crossing. Students arriving too early has also caused concern for residents on Morley Road as there are sometimes large groups of students congregating outside the gates. This should only be the case for the 5 minutes before the gates are opened. Some students have been sitting on walls, or going onto the driveways of local residents while they have been waiting to come into school. Please remind your youngster of the need for positive behaviour on the way to and from school. Below is a reminder of the times that students should be arriving in the morning:

Year group	Arrival time to school	Lesson start time
7	8.35am	8.45am
8	9.50am	10.00am
9	9.05am	9.15am
10	9.20am	9.30am
11	8.20am	8.30am

Coats and blazers

As part of the measures to reduce the risk of spreading COVID in school, the windows are open in all classrooms and unless it is raining, students are outside at lunchtime. Please ensure that your youngster has their blazer with them every day and a (dark coloured) coat so that they can go outside. Please be aware that hoodies/jumpers cannot be worn instead of coats and will be confiscated.

I am also recommending that students wear either a plain white t-shirt or plain white 'under armour' beneath their school shirt to help them to stay warm while they are in lessons. Although we have been lucky with the weather so far, I expect the temperature to drop over the next few weeks and the three layers (white t shirt, school shirt and blazer) will keep them warm in lessons.

Homework

As you will be aware, we usually use ClassCharts to set homework. However this is currently being used to set work for any pupils who are currently self-isolating. Instead students are being set 'extended study' tasks which they are issued at the end of a lesson. Although we are not currently setting detentions due to the staggered start, finish and lunch times, it is expected that these additional study tasks will be completed by students. Independent work completed by students at home supports and embeds the learning that takes place in the classroom and remains important.

Remote learning

Although I am hoping that disruption to learning will be kept to a minimum, obviously there are plans in place in school for different possibilities. If there are any further announcements or updates to government guidance, I will let you know as soon as possible any changes to the current arrangements in school.

Work for self- isolating pupils

For pupils who are not able to attend school due to self-isolating (following government guidelines) work will be set work on ClassCharts. Mr Brown (student mentor) is setting work for individual students using curriculum maps produced by our Learning Directors. This system will be reviewed throughout the year and may change as government guidelines are updated.

Year bubble isolation

In the event of a year group bubble (or class within a bubble) having to self-isolate, the timetabled class teacher will set work on ClassCharts for their class. The amount of work set on ClassCharts will equal the amount of lessons each day. The work will be set on ClassCharts prior to the lesson. This way pupils can follow their normal timetable, remain in a routine and will also be able to email staff (during the lesson) if they need support or help with anything.

If parents or students do not know their ClassCharts access code, please contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year. In the event of a local or national lockdown, I will write to you again with any changes to our remote learning provision.

School Calendar

You will shortly receive an additional text message which will have attached the school calendar for this year. The events over the year have been provisionally scheduled in, however I will be reviewing whether these will be able to take place in school or whether they will be virtual or replaced with phone calls. During this term you will receive a welfare phone call from your youngster's form tutor to see how they are settling back into school. Please be aware that there is an INSET day on Monday 2nd November.

Our Open Evening Virtual Package has gone live this week for prospective parents, there is a range of information from all the faculty areas and about extra-curricular opportunities such as our Duke of Edinburgh scheme, if you would like to have a look, please use this link: <http://www.leesbrook.co.uk/index.php/students/latest-news/414-open-evening-september-2020>



**LEES BROOK
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

Yours faithfully

Z House

Zoe House
Headteacher