

Wednesday 20 July 2022

Dear parents & carers,

End of Term Newsletter
Summer 2022

The summer holidays are upon us! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff and parents for what has been a busy, yet excellent term at Lees Brook Community School. As you will be aware from the terms highlights below, we have had so many wonderful events, trips, and activities over the last few months and we look forward to a busy and exciting Autumn term.

The Duke of Edinburgh have had a number of successful expeditions this term and we are so proud to be one of the leading providers in Derbyshire. Congratulations to all those involved. In addition to the Duke of Edinburgh, we have increased our leadership opportunities in school and along with the School council, Eco council and All Inc groups, this term we successfully appointed 21 new student anti-bullying ambassadors. We are looking forward to the introduction of prefects and head students in September.

We can never underestimate the importance of exposing our students to a range of careers and employability opportunities. All year groups took part in a wide range of experiences to raise aspirations and to open their eyes to new prospects. We were so fortunate to welcome 19 different businesses to work alongside us during this time. Year 10 completed a world of work week which consisted of a programme of activities, presentations and visits which were arranged during the week in order to give every Year 10 student the opportunity to achieve these aims.

After a turbulent education due to the pandemic, we were so proud of our Year 11 students during the exam period, in addition to their attendance in the wide range of intervention sessions that were provided including Rolls Royce engineering graduate support, external tutor programmes, study support sessions, Easter school, walking talking mocks and morning/ after school intervention sessions to name a few. The leaving celebrations were emotional and we were delighted to say our final goodbyes at the school prom last week.

It has wonderful to open our doors to parents and carers once again and this term we have held a number of after school parent events including a Year 7 progress evening, Year 10 revision evening, Meet and Greet Coffee mornings, and an Arts award celebration evening. We are certainly looking forward to more events in the next academic year and will keep you updated in due course. We also look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September and we were really pleased to have the opportunity to meet the Year 6 pupils, parents and carers in our transition events and open evenings this term.

Our vision here at Lees Brook is to be a great school that provides high-quality teaching to our students, inspiring and instilling in them a love of learning and helping them strive and achieve and whilst academic success is of upmost importance, we believe there is so much more to education that what happens in the classroom. At Lees Brook, we believe in developing students' cultural capital, their confidence, their life

skills, their enjoyment, their motivation and their social skills. We prepare our children holistically for their future pathways. Trips and visits play a major part of this vision and last term, students had the opportunity to take part in a number of these activities. These included a trip to Boulogne in April, a trip to Paris and Euro Disney in July, Year 8 visits to Carsington and finally our whole school trips paid for by the academy which included a walk up Mam Tor and down the Caverns at Castleton for Year 7 pupils, a visit to Twycross Zoo for Year 8 pupils, a trip to Scarborough for Year 9 and finally Year 10 visited the Capital City and the National History Museum.

We have also had a range of sporting activities and successes this term including Derby City Sports, Archway Learning Trust Sports day, the Year 8 football team were crowned league B overall winners and Year 11 were the champions in the Derby City East tournament. We, in turn had our own sports day last Friday which was a great success. A special mention goes to Kayla (Y8) George (Y11) for qualifying for the English Schools athletics championships.

This year we have introduced a brand new reward system which the students have found motivating and ensure that we recognise achievement and progress across all areas of school life. Congratulations to all students who have achieved their bronze, silver or gold badges and a special mention to Arwen, Matilda and Carrie who will be receiving the principal award, alongside breakfast with the principal this week.

As part of ensuring that students are as successful as they can be, we have introduced new routines to the start of each day which ensures calm and purposeful starts to lessons. Line ups for Key Stage 3 now happen each day and to ensure students are ready to learn, we have provided free breakfast for all. It is delightful to walk into the dining hall every morning and see students reading, playing chess, playing the piano and enjoying quality social time with their friends.

Following consultation with all stakeholders, we were proud to unveil the new academy name and logo earlier this term and we have been working hard on ensuring the academy vision and values are embedded into everything we do.

We are saying goodbye at the end of this term to a number of staff who will be leaving us to take on new challenges across a range of different roles and I would like to take this time to wish them all the very best in the future. Our best wishes goes to the following staff:

Mrs Aubin

Mrs Long

Mr Lewis

Mrs Li

Mrs Smith

Mrs Lemon

Mrs McCloud

Mrs Jones

Mrs Luker

Mr Hatton

We are also delighted to be welcoming the following new staff in September:

Mrs Brown (English)
Miss Evans (Art)
Mr Chester (MFL)
Mr James Science)
Mr Engler (Maths)
Mr Strange (Maths)
Mr Thomas (Maths)
Mrs Lister (Head of Year 7)

On a personal note, I was absolutely delighted to be appointed the position of Principal at the end of this term. I feel honoured to bring the experience I have gained of 22 years in education to Lees Brook Academy and I look forward to working with the whole community as we strive for even greater success for our young people. I am passionate about providing our students with an outstanding education. By working together, we can ensure your children flourish, gain excellent academic success and leave the academy with the skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

End of term Arrangements

There will be a slight change to the day on Friday 22nd July which includes an earlier finish. Please see below:

Tutor - 8.40-9.05pm

Period 1 - 9.05-10.05pm

Period 2 - 10.05-11.05pm

Extended break - 11.05-11.35pm – Pupils will be able to buy food from the canteen and receive free school meals.

Period 3 - 11.35-12.05pm - This will be in tutor groups.

Pupils will be dismissed from 12.05pm

Attendance

Our pupils' welfare is of paramount importance to us and we believe that regular attendance throughout the year is essential for their success and fulfilment. It is the expectation that all students attend school for 97%+. Whilst we understand that not all appointments can be made out of school hours, please try to do this where possible or bring your child to school following their appointment. The academy will be implemented a new attendance policy from September. This will be on the academy website in the new school year. This will include all attendance procedures, when medical evidence is required and details of attendance fixed penalty notices. Please let us know if we can be of any support with your child's attendance.

Uniform

You will be aware that due to the logo change there is a new school uniform. This is only compulsory for new Year 7s, however if/when you replace uniform, you will only be able to replace it with the newly branded uniform. Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform in September to enable a smooth start to the new academic year. Please read through the attached uniform booklet to ensure you are aware of the expectations from September. Please contact your child's Year Leader if you require any support with uniform.

Exam results

GCSE examination results will be available for collection from the main school hall on Thursday 25th August 2022 from 9:00am to 11:00am. The Senior Leadership Team and Careers Advisor will be available to answer any questions you may have and to support you on results day. For those unable to collect their results, these will be posted home unless alternative arrangements are in place. We look forward to seeing you on 25th August. Please remember that if you wish for someone to collect results of your behalf, a signed letter will need to be presented.

New Term September arrangements

Please ensure your child is on site by 8.35, with lessons starting at 8.40.

Friday 2 nd September	Year 7 Only	8.35-3.00pm
Monday 5 th September	Years 7-11	8.35-3.00pm

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support. Please ensure you all have a restful summer, make memories together and enjoy every second. We look forward to seeing you again in September.

Best Wishes



Clare Watson
Principal