



Lees Brook Academy

Wednesday 19th July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I cannot quite believe that another academic year is over! And what a fantastic year it has been. As we near the end of the term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your unwavering support. Our partnership has played a vital role in fostering a positive learning environment and together we have strived to promote academic excellence, personal growth and a sense of community with our motto #TEAMLeesBrook at the forefront of everything we do. Your support at home, whether it be through monitoring homework, engaging in discussions, or participating in school events greatly enhances their learning experiences. I feel very privileged and proud to be working alongside some very special and talented individuals (young people, parents and staff team). As such, I am committed to secure the very best possible outcomes and successes in all that we do.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 11 and 13/14 students in the way they have conducted themselves and prepared for their examinations. They have epitomised what #TEAMLeesBrook is all about in terms of resilience, determination and hard work. They all deserve to be successful and I am delighted to hear about the next steps for Year 11 and Year 13/14 inspiring the next generation. However, all our students have been a credit to you as parents and carers, not only in their approach to their studies but also in their support of others and contributing fully to the life of the academy. The school prom was an amazing way to say our final goodbyes until exam results day.

Throughout this academic year, our team of staff have worked tirelessly to create engaging and meaningful learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, aiming to equip your child with the necessary skills for their future success. We have witnessed tremendous growth and it is so inspiring to see their curiosity and willingness to embrace new challenges.

As you can see from our social media pages, this final term has been extremely busy!

The Duke of Edinburgh continue to grow from strength to strength and have had a number of successful expeditions this term. We continue to be one of the leading providers in Derbyshire and we have recently featured in the local press due to the strength of our programme. Congratulations to all those involved. In addition to the expeditions, we have ensured that all children have the opportunity to develop their cultural capital experiences by providing school trips at no additional cost to parents. We have seen 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 London and the Natural History Museum. Additional trips and visits this term have included Geography Field trips, PE reward trip to Oxygen, STEM activity visits and a trip to Cologne to name but a few!



We are also very proud of our sporting success over the last term. In addition to our wide variety of extra-curricular activities, we have hosted our own academy Sports Day alongside selected students taking part in City Sports and Archway Trust Sports Day. Congratulations to all the students who participated in these activities.

We are extremely proud of our reward programme and this academic year will finish with achievement assemblies for all year groups, celebrating the successes of all. We have even celebrated with Principal's Breakfast this week! Last year we had 3 students who won this award. This year we have 270!!! What a fantastic achievement and a true indicator of how much progress students have made this academic year. Thoroughly deserved.

This year we have increased our leadership opportunities in school and along with the School Council, Eco Council and All Inc groups and this term successfully appointed 14 new student Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. We are looking forward to the introduction of Year 11 Prefects and Head Students in September.

For the first time in a number of years, students at Lees Brook Academy have taken part in Work Experience. This was a fantastic week for all students involved giving them a taste of the world of work. In addition to this, a number of additional careers activities took place with providers across East Midlands including Ted Baker, GF Tomlinsons, GXO and Alstom.

We have ended the term with lots of transition activities for Years 4, 5 and 6 and we are so excited to welcome our new students into our Lees Brook family. We are yet again seeing increasing numbers year on year and we have had lots of positive feedback from primary parents and teachers about their experiences. Our final evening event took place this week showcasing the amazing talents of our students with a variety of music, dance and art. Please look out for the pictures on our Facebook page.

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 go to the following staff:

Mr Engler
Mr Strange
Mrs Williams
Miss Hill
Mr Chester
Mr Ingram
Mrs Cherry
Miss Sizer
Mrs Hibbert
Mr Moore
Mrs James
Mr Hunter
Miss Clohessey
Mr Owen Austin
Miss Henson

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

Mr Brewer (Assistant
Principal Behaviour,
Attendance and
Alternative Provision)
Mr Morley (Maths)
Miss Nadeem (English)
Miss Scott (English)
Mr Wagg (English)
Mr Maddison (English)
Mr Sandham (Science)
Mrs Adesemoya (MFL)
Miss Hickin (Music)
Miss Bottomley
(Humanities)
Mr Makin (Humanities)
Miss Power
(Humanities)
Miss Bruce (Humanities)
Mrs Noon (Technology)
Mr McKella (Head of
Science)
Mrs Grimsey (Assistant
SENCO)

End of Term Arrangements

There will be a slight change to the day on Friday 21st July which includes an earlier finish. Please see below:

Tutor - 8.40-9.05am

Period 1 - 9.05-10.05am

Period 2 - 10.05-11.05am

Break - 11.05-11.20pm – Pupils will be able to buy food from the canteen and receive free school meals.

Period 3 - 11.20-12.05pm - This will be in tutor groups.

Pupils will be dismissed from 12.05pm

September 2023 – What's New?

From September, we will be introducing our new Lees Brook Way. The Lees Brook Way is to support our students in all aspects of academy life. Students will learn about this in their student INSET days in September. These are to help student settles back into school life after the summer holidays. Times are highlighted in the 'New Term September arrangements' section. In order to continue raising standards and high expectations, the behaviour policy will be slightly amended to ensure that all children engage in learning. There will be a reduction from 4 to 3 warnings which will result in a removal from lesson and 45 minute detention. The large range of positive rewards will continue with the addition of a new rewards including a new book vending machine.

To ensure that students have the most out of their education, we have slightly extended the school day. Please see below for the new times of the day. Please note, that students will need to be on site by 8.25am in order to arrive at their line up before 8.30am. Year 11 students will go straight to tutor. Year 10 Students studying Triple Science will have an additional period 6 once a fortnight which will be 3-4pm every other Tuesday. If you have any questions around this, please contact Mr Donner or Mr Moore.

Times of the Day 2023-2024

8.25 arrive to school

Tutor: 8.30-9.00

Period 1: 9.00-10.00

Period 2: 10.00-11.00

Break: 11.00-11.15

Period 3: 11.15-12.15

Period 4: 12.15-1.15

Lunch: 1.15-1.55

Line Ups: 1.55-2.00

Period 5: 2.00-3.00

Our school meals are changing

Over the last few months, our catering team have been working on a project to review the food we provide during the school day to ensure we're offering excellence when it comes to keeping our students well-nourished and ready to learn.

The team have worked in collaboration with students and kitchen staff to ensure our new offer is sustainable, healthy, inclusive – and delicious!

And it's not just our food which is changing – we've looked at the impact we're having on the environment and made some big changes to cut down on plastic waste and become much more sustainable.

We're really excited to introduce our new menus from September 2023- and hope you and your child / children are too.

What's happening?

- We're changing our school meals, with new menus and the opportunity for students to influence the choices on offer
- Students will be able to buy one meal deal and one snack, for £3 per day
- We will still offer free breakfasts for all students and free fresh fruit will still be available at break and lunch times
- We will no longer sell drinks in school, instead we have installed hydration stations and will ask students to bring reusable water bottles

Why are we making these changes?

- Following feedback from students, we recognised a need to improve the food available in school, to offer fresh, tasty, varied, healthy, nutritious and balanced meals with snacks and drinks to compliment this offer

- We estimate that across all of Archway Learning Trust's academies, we were using in the region of one million plastic bottles per year which were sold to students. We will no longer sell plastic bottles and will become much more sustainable in our approach to catering

What are the benefits of making these changes?

- School meals will be more appealing for your child / children with an improved variety of dishes on menus, an improved sandwich offer and more choice at break time
- The food on offer will promote a healthy, balanced diet for your child / children
- Our environmental impact will be greatly improved with reduced plastic waste, the introduction of reusable cutlery and crockery, more sustainable sourcing of ingredients and food waste being sent for composting

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
When will these changes take place?	The changes will be implemented from September 2023
How much will the new offer cost?	Breakfast remains free for all students, breaktime snacks will cost £0.60 (one item from a changing selection of savoury and fruit-based snacks) and lunch will be £2.40 for a meal deal containing a balance savoury meal and dessert option from a set menu
What if my child has an intolerance or other dietary requirement?	Our new menus are inclusive. There will be something for everybody, taking into consideration special dietary requirements including intolerances, vegetarianism, veganism and faith-based restrictions
How often will the menus change?	The 3-week menu cycle will change twice per year, Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter
How many choices of food will be on the menu each day?	There will be at least 14 choices of food across the school day
Why can my child only buy one item at break and the meal deal at lunchtime?	To promote a healthy, balanced diet. Also, to support students and families with budgeting, they will only be able to spend the maximum of £3.00 per school day
What if my child is still hungry after their breaktime snack or lunch?	Free fresh fruit will be available at these service times at the main counters
Where can my child get a drink from?	We have invested significantly in new hydration stations and there are hydration points at all main dining counters
Are students having an input into the new catering offer?	Yes, students have given us feedback and we will be asking for further input from parents / carers and student council groups at the end of the Autumn term
Do I need to do anything?	Please remind your child / children to bring a refillable water bottle to school every day, make sure they have their swipe card (or fingerprint registered) to pay for their food, and to take care of the crockery and cutlery.

Uniform

We are very proud of our Academy uniform and expect the students wear this with pride. It is an expectation that your child arrives in full uniform with a bag and equipment every day from September. If you need any support with this please do let us know. Please see the uniform page on our website for clarification. <https://www.leesbrook.co.uk/parents/uniform/>

Our equipment includes:

- Bag
- Pencil case
- Pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighter
- Eraser
- Reading book

Exam results

GCSE examination results will be available for collection from the main school hall on Thursday 24th August 2023 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 24th 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 8.25, with tutor time starting at 8.30.

Monday 4 th September	Year 7 and 11 Only	8.30pm-12.30pm
Tuesday 5 th September	Years 7*, 8, 9 and 10 Only	8.30pm-12.30pm
Wednesday 6 th September	All students back	8.30pm-3.00pm

**Please note Year 7 will be taking part in the Derby University Trip*

** A separate letter has been sent to Year 12, 13 and 14 regarding start times*

Finally, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. Look after each other and make special memories together. We look forward to seeing you again in September. We look forward to welcoming your child back for the next term with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

Best Wishes,



Clare Watson
Principal