



Global
School Alliance



Lees Brook
Academy

Thursday 7th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Quality of Education Update

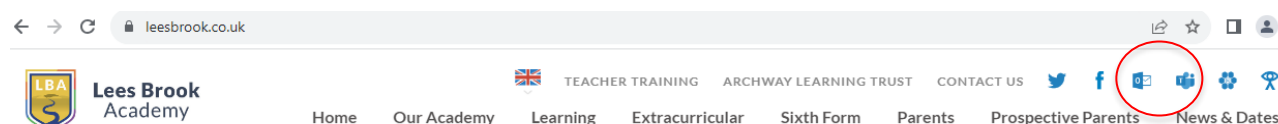
I am writing to update you with information regarding remote learning, knowledge organiser homework, and cover lessons at Lees Brook. Firstly, as I am sure you are aware from our recent Ofsted inspection that the Quality of Education was judged to be 'Good'. While this is fantastic news and reflects the hard work in the academy every single day, we are continuing to strive for more. The updates outlined below reflect this.

Remote Learning

Behind the scenes, we have been working on setting up Microsoft Teams across the academy to support your child in accessing their curriculum both in school and from home. We know that lots of students across the academy revise and prepare for assessments or exams in all year groups. Additionally, we know that sometimes unavoidable illness or absence occurs and that you as parents, alongside your children, would like them to keep up with their school work.

As a result, we have set up a Microsoft Teams account for each year group so they can access their lesson resources from home. This is to help them keep up with their learning and support them in their revision in preparation for GCSEs at Key Stage 4, Post-16 qualifications and at Key Stage 3. Students can access this by logging into Microsoft Teams online using their school email address and password via our school website where there is a now a new Microsoft Teams icon. We have also added an Outlook icon to make it easier for students to access their school email from home. Please see the image below.

As this is the first time we have set this up, we will continue to add lessons and resources to Teams throughout the year.



Knowledge Organiser Homework

As I am sure you are aware, your child has one hour of homework each evening set out in their knowledge organiser. This is then signed by their class teacher and positive points awarded. We have listened to parental feedback and are making some tweaks for the Spring Term Knowledge organisers as a result.

Lees Brook Academy | Morley Road, Chaddesden, Derby, DE21 4QX
Telephone: 01332 671723 | Email: schoolinfo@leesbrook.co.uk | Website: www.leesbrook.co.uk
Principal : Clare Watson

Lees Brook Academy is a member of Archway Learning Trust | Registered in England and Wales. Registration No. 7875164
Registered Office: Aspley Lane, Nottingham, NG8 5GY



- We are splitting the Spring Term booklets into two booklets. This means students will have one booklet for Spring Term 1, up until February half term. Students will then receive a second booklet for Spring Term 2 up until Easter. The rationale for this is to reduce the amount of pages to support students in accessing the booklets.
- Heads of Department and their teams have also reviewed and quality assured their knowledge organisers and homework tasks. This is aimed at improving the quality of tasks above the standard already set, and to then reduce the number of subject pages. Again, this is to support students in learning the core knowledge they need to support them in lessons.
- In terms of formatting, we will have the knowledge organiser page followed by the task page on one double page spread to reduce the need for students to flick between pages. Again, this is to make it easier for students to access the learning.

As always, these will be uploaded to our school website so that your child has online access, as well as the physical copy. You can find these here: <https://www.leesbrook.co.uk/learning/knowledge-organisers/>

Cover Lessons

This half term we have been trialing collapsed cover lessons in the Hall due to a national shortage of cover teachers. While we are doing everything we can to ensure we employ a full-time cover teacher, the national recruitment issues around teaching are having an impact. Therefore, the rationale for cover lessons in the hall is that:

- It allows subject teachers, where possible, to support cover lessons by popping into the hall to set up learning and explaining tasks. This supports both the students and the cover teacher in ensuring a more successful cover lesson.
- As I am sure you can appreciate, cover lessons can be disruptive. However, having the majority of cover lessons in one place allows our staff to support behaviorally, as well as with their learning.

Student feedback of this new approach has been that they are producing more work, of a higher quality in due to Lees Brook staff being able to pop in and check on their learning. Parental feedback has also been more positive, recognising that with Senior Leaders and Year Leaders supporting there has been an improvement in cover lessons. While we appreciate that no cover lesson is ever ideal, staff absence does happen for a range of reasons and currently this model is a step forward.

To reassure you as parents, reasonable adjustments are being made for students where they might otherwise struggle in a larger room of people. We will continue to review this new model in light of student, parent and staff feedback as we continue throughout the year.

Finally, thank you to each of you for the support you give your child and support for the academy in continuing to improve the quality of their experience at Lees Brook. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,



Mr C Routledge
Assistant Principal – Quality of Education
Lees Brook Academy