

LeAF Studio

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Principal: Mrs N Lapskas

16th December 2019

Dear Parent, Carer

Christmas is here! We have been back 15 weeks, a third of the academic year has been completed and so much has happened.

A massive well done to Year 11 Otis for completing at the T&G World Championships earlier this month in Tokyo. Otis came in an amazing 5th place overall, what an achievement! A huge congratulations to post 16 students Daniel, Matthew, Milan and Lewis who each received a 'golden ticket' auditions for Italia Conti Arts Centre.

Applications for Year 9 are coming in thick and fast, this year we believe we will be oversubscribed which is a massive achievement for our school, we are now one of the largest Studio Schools in the country.

Academic update

Our new Year 9 & 12 students have settled into life at LeAF Studio well, engaging into their specialisms and developing their academic skills and knowledge to support their dual career.

Year 11 & 13 have sat their first round of PPEs (Pre Public Examinations) as part of their preparation for the live summer exams and learning mentors have been allocated to support and encourage at this challenging time.

Outside of the classroom, a number of subjects have organised trips and events to further support their students with their academic studies, including Film Studies students heading to the Into Film Festival and Geography students heading out on a field trip to Barton-on Sea.

After Christmas the hard work continues as Year 11 and 13 students begin to focus on revision alongside the daily intervention sessions delivered by staff on site as we strive to ensure every student performs to their potential in their academic subjects.

Inclusion update

This term the focus for support has been specifically Year 11 & 12 in SEND. A big thank you to our support staff and Mrs Hawkins the Examinations Officer for ensuring students have the correct support in place.

Next half term the focus will be on ensuring our Year 10s have access to the specialist teacher who will identify appropriate support to ensure our SEND students succeed to their full potential.

In the run up to Christmas, reading assessments will be carried out with selected Year 9 & 10 students. These assessments will be conducted online in school and will provide us with a clear insight of who needs more targeted support with developing their reading skills.

Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

We are seeking volunteers from all year groups to enrol in the student council. This is not only a great opportunity to contribute to the development of your school but also provides excellent experience which will look great on your applications for Post 16 education. If students are interested, they can contact Miss Manning or our Head Boy or Head Girl.



A big thank you to all of our teachers both new to LeAF and existing staff for working hard to ensure that the #ProudToBeLeaf initiative, which was launched last year, has been consistently applied to all year groups. As a reminder the students are expected to demonstrate positive behaviours for learning as listed in the START acronym:

Sit up.

Track the speaker.

Always focused on learning.

Respond to instructions without question of comment.

Take turns; one voice at a time.

School equipment must be carried in an appropriate bag and each student is required to have: Black, red & green pens, pencil, highlighter, rubber, sharpener, scientific calculator, geometry set (protractor, pair of compasses, triangle, 15cm ruler). Equipment and uniform is checked each day in tutor

time. A preparation point and 10 minute detention will be issued for missing items or incorrect uniform.

Attendance

We have received several requests this academic year for term time holidays. LeAF Studio will not authorise term time holidays except in exceptional circumstances. Students should aim for 100% attendance to ensure opportunities are maximised, please consider when booking a holiday during term time that Government figures evidence:

- Where 100% attendance is evident, **73%** of pupils gain five 9 - 4 equivalent grades at GCSE.
- For students with between 80% and 90% attendance: only **35%** of pupils gain five 9 - 4 equivalent grades at GCSE.
- For students with less than 50% attendance: only **3%** of pupils gain five 9 - 4 equivalent grades at GCSE.
- To achieve 96% attendance, pupils must not be absent for more than 8 days in any full academic year, students should be striving for 100% attendance.

Careers Engagement Opportunities

It has been a very busy term regarding careers which has shown our Stage and Screen Post 16 students taking part in auditions and workshops which were delivered by prestigious universities and colleges at LeAF Studio. Our Post 16 Sport students had a workshop delivered by AECC University College which gave them an insight to courses available to them after they have completed their qualification. Please go to our school website for further information.

www.leafstudio.co.uk/parents-and-students/careers-information/

Year 11 students had the opportunity to go to a Trust Careers Fayre – this was a successful event whereby a number of students discussed their future pathways in a very mature manner with a huge variety of employers. Thank you to our careers advisor, Katherine Speed who delivers 1:1 careers advice to LeAF students alongside the careers fayres.

Teaching and Learning

At LeAF Studio we strive to ensure high expectations in all areas, a massive thanks to staff and students for their continuing effort ensuring these are achieved. Differentiation has been our focus this term in order for staff to use a range of activities and strategies to engage our learners and to ensure they are making good progress.

We launched the **improved Knowledge Organiser** which contains key terminology and definitions. Students complete weekly knowledge organiser tests within each subject area in order to check progress and understanding. Students have been seen to be retaining their learning as they are being given more opportunities to embed it into long-term memory. Students even fed back that they actually enjoy doing their homework!

Your child will be issued a new Knowledge Organiser to aid homework for the spring and summer term. Time, effort and funds have been put in to ensure they are of good quality as they will be ideal for all students to use as revision guides across KS4. Thank you to those parents that have already contributed the £15 per student required to continue to implement this resource. This a valuable resource we really wish to continue and appreciate all support in this matter. If you are able to, the payment can be made online through Parent pay. We would really appreciate your donation with such tight school budgets.



Specialism update - Stage & Screen

The Stage & Screen team have had an incredibly busy start to the academic year with Post 16 students receiving workshops from The Brighton Academy, Italia Conti and ArtsEd. Students visited P&O cruise ship Ventura and The Academy to develop an understanding of cruise ship life and working as a performer on ships. LeAF Stage's industry connections are going from strength to strength and developing further each half term. Coming up in 2020 LeAF Stage students will be visited by University of Winchester and Cosson's.

Along with their workshop, The Brighton Academy (TBA) offered an in-house audition for students considering TBA as a place to study after Year 13. Further to this our Year 13 students have been busy applying and auditioning for their colleges and universities of choice. Many students are now receiving offers which is hugely exciting for them and truly reflects their hard work and determination. Joining this is Kitty from Year 11 who auditioned at Wilkes Academy and has been offered a place with part scholarship.



Post 16 at the TBA workshop

We are thrilled to have successfully launched An Evening With..., Move It and Spotlight 2020. Tickets for An Evening With...and Spotlight 2020 are and will be available from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/leafstudio

We are delighted to share that LeAF Stage & Screen students can be seen performing as far as Yeovil and Fleet this festive season. Students have secured these performance opportunities through LeAF, their training providers and their agencies. We are so very proud of every student who is performing this Christmas and cannot wait to hear all about it when you return in January! A special mention to Coach Adam who is also involved as the Musical Director for Poole Panto this festive season.

Specialism Update - Sport

This term, the Athlete Academy students have been engaged in a range of exciting activities related to their specialisms. Performance and High Performance students attended seminars on creating online portfolios/profiles for their sports to encourage positive publicity and sponsorship, whilst a professional photographer came in to take our official sport photos. Students also took part in nutritional and psychological workshops and attended careers visits to Wembley, Solent University and the Chiropractic College.

With regards to individual successes, Jamie in Year 11 was selected for the British Cycling Apprenticeship Programme whilst Otis in Year 11 was selected to represent Great Britain in DMT at the World Youth Championships in Tokyo. In addition, Jensen (Year 10) competed in the European Junior Championships for gold and Reuben (year 12) won the Welsh and Swedish Badminton Opens.



Jamie, Year 11



In terms of competitions, the Year 9 & 11 football sides have both progressed into the last 16 of the national cups with the Year 10 and Girls sides being narrowly defeated in their fixtures. In addition, KS3 and KS4 boys competed at the Dorset County Games in badminton and table tennis whilst the golfers came second in the County Schools Tournament held at Bulbury Woods. Not to be outdone, the girls came third overall in the Dorset Schools Swimming Gala and seven girls in Years 9 to 11 were selected to represent Dorset at football.

Charity Work

We have been working with the Trussell Trust to collect items to support our local foodbank. Many thanks to all those of you who contributed to this, the donations will be taken to the foodbank in the final week of term.



Upcoming Events

Friday 20th December

- School closes to all students at 12:30pm

Monday 6th January

- Inset day – school closed to all students

Tuesday 7th January

- School open to all at 8:40am

Wednesday 15th January

- Yr11 Academic mentoring meetings 2 – 4pm
- Yr9 & 10 specialism coach appointments 2 – 4pm

Thursday 16th January

- Yr10 Parent Consultation Evening 4:15pm – 6:30pm

Thursday 30th January

- Yr9 Parent Consultation Evening 4:15pm – 6:30pm

Friday 31st January

- 'An Evening With..' Stage & Screen event at AFC Bournemouth

Thank you for your ongoing support at what is already a busy time of year. On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to wish you all a Safe, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

Nadine Lapskas
Principal