

## LeAF Studio

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Principal: Mrs N Lapskas

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10 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

This term has been like no other in the school's history. We have all had to adapt to different working practices and there have been higher levels of student and staff absence than in a normal term. We are working to ensure that our students continue to enjoy a rich educational diet despite the restrictions currently in place. We are sorry for the number of lessons for which students' usual teachers have been unavoidably absent; we have done all that we can to offer as much continuity as we are able. Our students have risen to the challenges of recent weeks magnificently and we thank them for that.

Following updated government guidance issued on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 about end of term planning, the advice we have received is that Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December may be used as an INSET day for all schools nationally. The reason for this is to ensure that the school is able to contribute to NHS Test and Trace should a pupil or staff member test positive for coronavirus within the first six days after teaching ends. Consequently, LeAF Studio will be closed on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December as all staff will be undertaking professional development training online. The school will reopen on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The following information sets out exactly what you should do over the Christmas holidays, should your child have a positive test for coronavirus.

1. If your child tests positive for coronavirus **up to and including Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December**, please contact the school directly using the following email address: studioschool@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk. Please note that this email address is monitored between the hours of 9am and 3pm.
2. If your child tests positive for coronavirus from Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, please contact NHS Test and Trace directly and follow the contact tracing instructions provided. **There is NO requirement to contact the school.** Should the school be required to support the tracing of contacts, this will be following communication directly from Test and Trace to the school. Members of the school will be available via this method up to and including **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December as is the case nationally.**
3. If your child tests positive for coronavirus after Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, you need to communicate directly with NHS Test and Trace as above **but there is no requirement for you to inform the school until the first day of the new term.**

**The Test and Trace service can be contacted directly by telephoning 119 or alternatively you can book a test online by going to: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>**

For pupils entitled to free school meals, an additional voucher of **£3 for Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** will be issued and sent to you electronically. This is separate from the other vouchers that you will be receiving under the Winter Fund scheme that are due to arrive on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

SPORT STAGE SCREEN

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## **Food orders**

Food orders for the return to school on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 **MUST be placed by 4pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** to allow the canteen to order for our school return.

## **Teaching & Learning**

Teaching and Learning has continued to a high standard this term despite Covid implications which have seen bubbles close and a number of students self-isolating. I would like to thank all staff for providing lessons via Teams and students for their high level of engagement when working from home. Please be aware that all lessons are available in your son/daughter's class team/files/class materials.

Year 11 have been completing their PPEs this term and have conducted themselves in a mature manner throughout. Their teachers have also been sitting the same PPEs in order to provide model answers for the students when they review their papers in class.

All students have been focusing on the presentation of their books ensuring that sub-headings are used to highlight linked learning; making it easier for them to understand what, how and why they are studying the topics within each subject area.

## **Academics**

It has been another extremely productive term for the academic subjects at LeAF Studio. Year 9 have had their first progress reports sent home and this has been followed by an online consultation evening where parents were able to discuss their child's progress with their tutor. Years 11 and 13 have been very busy with their first set of PPEs (mock exams) and have worked exceptionally hard to prepare for past paper tests in all of their subjects at both GCSE and A Level. The attitude and effort of the vast majority of students was a credit to them, particularly in these challenging times. These exams are a critical part of our students' preparations for the final summer series and they will be followed by the second and final set of PPEs in February. Following on from these current results, we will be allocating mentors to those students who may need some extra support to ensure they achieve their potential in their GCSEs or A Levels. In addition to all of this, Year 11 Dance have their final GCSE practical exam in the next few days whilst BTEC Sport and Performing Arts both have formal external exams coming up soon in January.

Away from the exam hall, a number of Year 13 students have been successful in gaining offers for academic routes including Children's Nursing, Adult Nursing and Teaching - Annabel Lee has offers from Portsmouth University, University of Winchester and Plymouth University, Lily Blake has received offers from Bournemouth University and University of Winchester whilst Emily Rogers has been offered places at Chichester, Winchester and Reading universities. As always, it is extremely gratifying to see students opting to continue their academic studies at the very highest possible levels.

## **A message to Year 11 from Mrs Watt**

The final year of GCSE studies is always a stressful time, and this has only been magnified by the added pressures of Covid-19 but as a cohort you have handled this very impressively. The vast majority of you have understood the importance of your time at school and it is a pleasure seeing you so engaged and dedicated to your learning. We understand the worries many of you have had surrounding Covid-19 but your attendance at school will be key to your success; using Microsoft Teams as an online blended learning platform is a great learning tool but nothing can replace the interactions you have with your teachers and peers in a physical learning environment.

Well done for getting through your first set of PPEs (mock exams), now I hope you can find time to relax and enjoy yourself over the Christmas holidays and be well rested to come back to school with a fresh mind-set, ready to tackle what will be, hopefully, a much more positive year.

### **Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare**

Year 10 have been looking at Relationships, and following the lessons provided by the Sandwell trust to support mental health. Year 9 have been looking at Finance over this half term. We are hoping to get some outside agencies and theatre groups in to supplement our PD lessons in the new year when Covid rules allow.

### **An additional Head of Year appointment**

Mr Edmonds has done a marvellous job over the past 18 months leading Years 9 & 10 alongside his Head of Maths role. However, the school has continued to grow, and we are pleased to announce we have been able to appoint an additional Head of Year to support our students and ease Mr Edmonds ever growing workload!!

Miss Magookin will now be Head of Year 10 from January 2021 and is contactable on [KMagookin@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:KMagookin@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk), well done from us all.

Mr Edmonds will remain Head of Year 9 and is still contactable for Year 9 queries on [WEdmonds@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:WEdmonds@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk).

### **Stage & Screen Update**

It has been a very busy half term for Stage & Screen. The first auditions took place earlier this month for Y11 internal applicants for our Sixth Form provision. We have also listened to parent feedback and Stage & Screen uniform has been streamlined. Uniform can now only be purchased from Dance Runway and LeAF Studio directly. We are currently working with Dance Runway on an exciting online shop and adding some new items to our existing uniform.

COVID-19 has allowed us time as a faculty to reflect on our department and generate ideas and plans to move Stage & Screen further forward. Partnered with the Training Fund and a long-term plan, we have some wonderful and exciting ideas which we will share as they progress. We would like to thank all parents, carers and families who have or will be contributing to the LeAF Studio Training Fund, this supports our development and the student experience at LeAF Studio. An additional thank you to the Cobb family for their very kind independent donation to the Performing Arts at LeAF Studio.

Y13 students have begun their journeys for universities and vocational college, from applying and setting solo material to sending video footage and attending auditions.

We have also been delighted to welcome D&B Academy of Performing Arts and The Brighton Academy to LeAF this half term to work with our Sixth Form students. D&B offered an outstanding audition technique workshop with an informative Q&A session. Brighton visited us for the third year and providing us with a workshop and audition for their degree course!



Music students from Year 9, 10, 11 performed in a live-streamed LeAF Live event at Absolute Music supported by Soundstorm, Bournemouth's local Music Hub and Support Service. The students were joined (at a distance!) by former LeAF Studio students Joe Petrauskas and Oscar Paulley who are currently studying at BAMM, one of LeAF Studio's external providers of education.

Y11 GCSE Music and Dance students have taken their performance exams, securing the first 30% of their GCSE examination grade! The students were exceptional and should be very proud of themselves. Lots of great work and development across the groups - well done!



It has been confirmed that the New York residential trip has been postponed until February 2022. For those students leaving LeAF Studio this coming summer, refunds will be arranged in the New Year.



### **Sport Update**

Our Sport students have benefitted from the ability to still access their S&C and technical training, which hopefully will now put them at an advantage in their return to sports outside of school. Students have adhered to the strict protocols within the sports facility to ensure all students and staff remain safe whilst continuing with their sports provision. Please continue to remain vigilant as we go into the New Year.

Through the second lockdown we were in the lucky position to continue our boxing and golf provision, as LeAF had sole use of each facility. We wish to send a huge thank you to Wimborne Pro-Am Boxing Club, Golfcatcher Academy and each specialism's coaching staff for giving our students the opportunity to maintain their sharpness and continue to improve their techniques and knowledge over this period.

Congratulations to LeAF's Swimming Coach, Barry Aldrick, who has been selected to coach again at International level. We hope to re-start our Swimming specialism after Christmas and we will notify all Swimmers when we have more developments. Intra-school competitions for 2020-21 season across all sports are likely to begin in the New Year, including the National Cup for our football specialisms in all year groups. We have been busy preparing two new sports specialisms for September 2021, so watch this space!

We have continued to offer our most talented athletes' extra provision. Mr Evans, Head of Sport and PE, has offered Talented Athlete Lifestyle Support (TALS) sessions to select students, in order to support them in balancing the demands of academic studies alongside their sporting careers. Our Year 10 athletes have also continued with their personalised sports psychology interventions with Solent University, which continue to be a big success.

Academically, BTEC Sport L3 students have started their preparations for their two external exams in January 2021. Thank you to the five guest speakers we welcomed for an online workshop in preparation for their Unit 19 exam last week. GCSE PE students have been working hard on finalising their NEA coursework in Year 11, and Year 10 have been developing their knowledge of biomechanics and levers within sport. For BTEC Sport L2, Year 10 have been studying for their Unit 1 exam and Year 11 carried out the fitness training programmes that they designed themselves. Year 9 have made fantastic progress in their core PE and will be partaking in competitions in the final week of term.

We have warmly welcomed University representatives to talk through future options with our Year 12&13 students and providing advice for Personal Statements and UCAS. We look forward to seeing what offers will be made over the coming months. As always, please join us on our Sport Specialism Community Page on Facebook – Supporters of LeAF Studio (Sport Specialism) for future updates and information.

**Coming up:**

- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December
  - LeAF Live event online, see Facebook for details
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December
  - Last day of term for students, 4pm finish
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December
  - Inset Day
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January
  - Inset Day
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January
  - Yr11 Mentoring afternoon
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January
  - Yr10 Parent Consultation
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January
  - KS5 BTEC Performing Arts live exam

Please have a safe and happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Kind regards



Nadine Lapskas  
Principal