

15 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have arrived at the end of yet another unprecedented academic year with bubble closures, national lockdowns and testing on site alongside Teacher Assessed Grades for Years 11 and 13.

I wish to thank all LeAF staff, students, and parents for their support over the year. I am grateful for the kind words parents have shared, the donations through the training fund which have continued to develop our resources to enrich the curriculum, as well as donations towards our show and even the significant one-off donation which allowed Year 11 and 13 to have a prom. It has been an incredibly challenging year but as always staff, students and parents have all pulled together to provide the best possible experience for all of our young people.

Year 9 – Mr Edmonds

It has been a difficult start to the Year 9's time at LeAF, but despite this they have had an excellent year engaging with online learning as well as face to face lessons. This half term has been a little easier with some of the restrictions lifting and students being able to follow a more normal routine. Year 9 have finally been able to see all of the school, including the excellent canteen! It has been great seeing them engaging in their specialisms and preparing for the show. I am really looking forward to seeing them on stage and joining them in various activities for sport during the last week of term. The tutors and I are hoping to see Year 9 continue to mature and develop as they move into Year 10 and set the right tone for the new Year 9 cohort starting in September. As a year group they should all be proud of what they have achieved in very difficult conditions, I can't wait to see what they will achieve as lockdown measures continue to reduce.

Year 10 – Miss Magookin

Without a doubt this has been another whirlwind of a year and it has been lovely to see that within the past term that LeAF is back to some sort of normality. All students have been very focused in and around school which has been a delight to see and has created a great atmosphere around the building. I have currently transitioned Year 10 to Mrs Watt as they are moving into Year 11 and getting ready for their end of year exams. I would like to say a massive well done to Year 10 in the way they have returned to school this term and I wish them well as they move up into Year 11, which hopefully will be a much less disruptive year. From September I will be taking over our new Year 9s and transition work has already been completed in preparation for them starting next year. I hope all students enjoy their final week of term in specialism week with Stage putting on a show, and Sport taking part in a variety of activities. Finally, I wish everyone a restful summer and hopefully the chance to enjoy some sunshine.

Year 11 – Mrs Watt

Whilst many of our Year 11s are returning for sixth form next year, a number have come to the end of their time at LeAF and I wanted to take the opportunity to thank them all for all their hard work over their time with us. It has been a pleasure to teach them since they started their journey in year 9 and an absolute honour to be their head of year in their final year. The last few months may not have been what we would have hoped for, but I will forever be proud of the maturity the students showed during what will probably be one of the most difficult times of their lives. I wish all the Year 11s the best of luck with their future endeavours and I will forever cherish the memories made with them all at LeAF.

Reading – Mrs Percival

The reading strategy continues to race ahead promoting reading skills and fostering students' life long love of reading! Displays around the school highlight popular reading material and quotations to inspire our students with literature relevant to their Specialism. During lessons students are explicitly taught which reading skills to use when they access a piece of text regardless of whether they are studying Math, English, History or PE. This reinforces the view of literature and reading being essential in every aspect of their lives.

In September we will begin to allocate students to our newly formed reading intervention to support them in developing skills and breaking down barriers which would otherwise prevent them from accessing written materials across their lives.

Teaching and Learning – Mrs Percival

Lessons this year have had a clear sequence with the focus on the retention of knowledge and application. Students have benefitted from explicitly writing in their books how their skills are being developed which has led to greater understanding and engagement.

Academics – Mr Clark

It has been a very busy term for all academic subjects, particularly in light of the cancellation of formal exams for Years 11 and 13. As a school, we made the decision to continue with our own exams and the students responded brilliantly by working incredibly hard and taking them as seriously as they would have the real exams. This means that we have been able to gather lots of clear evidence to support the awarding of our Teacher Assessed Grades, and these have been through a rigorous moderation process to ensure that they are fair and reflect the level and ability of each student. We eagerly look forward to the results days in the summer (10th August for Y13, 12th August for Y11) and sharing these results with all of our students.

Since the submission of the TAGs, the remaining year groups (9, 10 and 12) have all been undertaking their own end of year exams and again have demonstrated an overwhelmingly positive attitude to these which has been most impressive. We do not yet know the plans for exams in 2022 but all of this is essential evidence that we can use to demonstrate our students progress in their academic lessons.

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SEND – Mr Phillips

The main focus this half term has been supporting the varied needs of our students with Examination Access Arrangements. The disruption caused by Covid has affected our preparation for the end of year exams and means that we have still been adjusting our support as we are able to get to know our students better. Ms Jennings has begun our assessments for exam support and we will be working together to identify additional students who may be eligible for exam support. Please contact your Head of Year if you believe that your child may benefit from support in their exams.

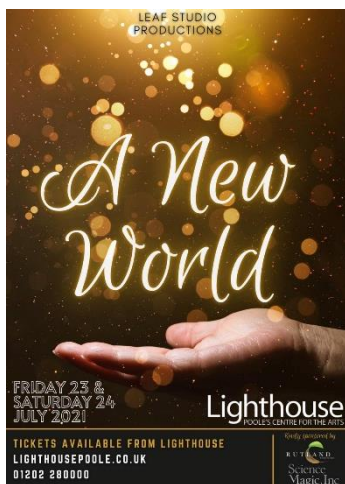
Stage & Screen – Mr Lake & Miss Aplin

WOW, where do we begin? It certainly has been a whirlwind time for our Performing Arts staff and students. Since returning in March, we have been incredibly busy ensuring our students receive opportunities to perform and bring back life to our industry.



In May, our musicians worked with SoundStorm and Absolute Music to produce **LeAF LIVE!** This event was streamed live via Facebook and YouTube and is still available to watch. LeAF LIVE was a huge success and was a fantastic way for students to perform virtually to a 'live' audience. We were also delighted to be joined by BAMM students Oscar and Joe who are LeAF Studio alumni.

In June, Y12 students created another virtual performance for their BTEC course. Working with a professional videographer (from the BBC), our students devised and choreographed a community theatre piece with the message 'Save The Arts'. Using LeAF Studio's learning environment (both inside and out) the piece demonstrates the importance of valuing the Arts as we recover from the ongoing pandemic.



On the 23 and 24 July our staff and students are so very hopeful that our summer production of **A NEW WOLRD** will get the 'green light' from the government and be performed in Lighthouse Poole. Tickets are still available via 01202 280000 or by [clicking here](#).

We have also secured Lighthouse Theatre for a special screening of the **A NEW WORLD** recording which will be a fantastic way to round off the summer holidays before we return in September. Staff, students, family and friends are invited to this screening on Wednesday 1 September at 1pm. Tickets available by [clicking here](#) or by calling 01202 280000.

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Returning to teaching Performing Arts and producing these events and opportunities has been far from easy and we have experienced many hurdles along the way but one thing that has been consistent is the dedication of our staff and students.

On behalf of the entire team we wish all our Performing Arts students who leave LeAF or LS6 this year the very best of luck!

Sport – Mr Evans

LeAF's Sports Specialism students have been continuing with training and a return to competition within their sports. With limited opportunities for our students to compete in competitive sport, we have continued to provide our students with more team based games within their specialism training to encourage competition, teamwork and social benefits.

This term we have said goodbye to Mr Fortescue who has taken on a Associate Lecturer role at Solent University, and Mr Patrick who has expanded his private S&C business outside of school, and we thank both for their substantial contribution to the sports specialism over the years. We are proud to welcome both Miss Spencer, a competing international powerlifter, and Miss Anderson, a Women's Premier League referee and official, to the sports specialism and their expertise in dual-careers will be paramount to the development of the specialism in the future.

Congratulations to Sergii in Year 9 who has been on trial recently with Chelsea and Leicester City. Fingers crossed for you in your remaining trial dates. Well done to Jacob in Year 9 too who has been signed by Exeter City. Our footballers have been entered for the National and County cups next season, both for boys and girls competitions. Unfortunately, our Beach Soccer tournament was postponed in June due to Covid restrictions.



Many of our students have limited competitive opportunities over the past few weeks, however we still had a few students who represented LeAF at the Dorset Schools games with notable performances from our Year 9 students Kristina in 1500m and Lola in 100m and Long jump, both unfortunately narrowly missing out on qualifying for the national finals.



Our Golf Academy students have gained recent success in a number of competitions, and it has been fantastic to see our students accessing GolfCatcher's new facilities at Iford under the guidance of our fantastic coach Gideon.

Our boxers have been not allowed to return to competition yet by England Boxing, but their first competitive bouts will be at Wimborne's Homeshow on 7th August – Tickets and Pay-to-view will be available to purchase next week.

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We have continued to welcome guest speakers for our High Performance students during lockdown, discussing a range of areas in regards to Dual-Career High Performance lifestyles and careers. Many thanks to Rob Page and Jack Plummer for giving up time out of their busy schedules to chat to our students, and we look forward to welcoming more guest speakers next academic year.



Our Year 12 students have been keeping busy this term studying for their careers. It has been great to see the progress made in their professional CVs, personal statements and interview skills ready for their next steps; whether that be at university, industry based training or apprenticeships.

Unfortunately, the Year 12's primary school sports day has been cancelled due to Covid after all their hard work organising sponsors and external clubs to attend; however, they have worked hard to develop their coaching and teaching skills for any future employment. Well done to Year 12 as it has been a really enjoyable few weeks.

We are counting down the days to July 19th and (fingers crossed) the full opening up of facilities and a full return to competitive sports. We are itching to get back to competitive school sport as much as the students, so fingers crossed we can do this next year. If your son/daughter gains sporting success outside of school please do send a report and photo into Mr Evans (devans@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk) so that we can celebrate the Sport Specialism achievements on our social media platforms! Finally, we wish all parents and students a fantastic and safe summer break, and we look forward to seeing you all again ready for sports competition in September.

Staffing changes

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome several new staff members to LeAF Studio as we continue to expand and improve our provision. As already mentioned, Miss Spencer and Miss Anderson will both be joining our fantastic Sport team and Miss Pyke will be joining our successful Science department. As well as this, we have two trainee teachers who will be starting with us in September in PE and History.

In terms of goodbyes, Dr Evesham will be leaving us as the end of term. Dr Evesham has worked on and off for LeAF over the past couple of years teaching A Level Biology and we really appreciate everything she has implemented for our KS5 students. I am pleased to say Dr Evesham has kindly agreed to become a Community Governor from September to continue to support LeAF.

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End of term arrangements

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our arrangements for both the end of term and our return to school in September.

Term officially ends on **Friday 23rd July** – the majority of Stage & Screen students will be involved in the show at the Lighthouse but the remaining students who have been involved in Specialism week will be finishing at **12.30pm** after their Sports Day.

Term restarts on **Monday 6th September** for all students at our new time of **8.35am**. Please note that as previously shared school will now finish at 3.15pm every day from September.

Time	
08:35	Tutor
08:45	Period 1
09:45	Period 2
10:45	Break
11:15	Period 3
12:15	Period 4
13:15	Lunch 1 / Tutor 2
13:45	Tutor 1 / Lunch 2
14:15	Period 5
15:15	School day ends

Students will all be Covid tested upon their return to school but further details have been sent in a separate letter.

Kind regards



Mrs N Lapskas
Principal

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