

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is here! A third of the academic year has been completed and so much has happened at LeAF this academic year.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Hawkins has moved into an exciting new role at LeAF as our Attendance Officer. Mrs Hawkins will be the first port of call for any attendance issues.



Daily KS4 Absences:
studioattendance@LeAFstudio.co.uk
Daily Sixth Form Absences:
LS6attendance@LeAFstudio.co.uk

Mrs Magnusson has started at LeAF in the role previously completed by Mrs Hawkins, as Data, Admissions and Exams Officer.



Mrs Magnusson comes with a wealth of experience in school support work having previously worked at a local secondary in the role of Exams and Admissions.

Mr Lawrence is sadly leaving the role as Head of Science, however on the 1st of February we will have **Mr Milward** joining LeAF in this role. Mr Milward is a very experienced Head of Department; I have previously worked with him for several years at another local secondary school and he comes with experience in delivering A Level and GCSE Science.

Inclusion

As always, it has been a busy term in the Inclusion team. We have welcomed Mr Welch to the team as our new SENDCO and he has been working incredibly hard to get to know all of our SEN students and get them set up on Provision Map, our new SEN tracking system. This will be a fantastic resource for staff, students and parents and Mr Welch will be getting more details out to parents as it is fully rolled out over the next few weeks.



The first APB report was run at the end of T1 and this resulted in a number of students not meeting their Attendance, Progress or Behaviour targets and therefore being removed from training for T2. Whilst this was understandingly disappointing for them, nearly 95% of the students passed and were able to continue training, representing the school and taking part in all the specialism activities, so it is clearly working as an incentive for the majority of our young people. The next report will be run in the penultimate week before Christmas, so please ensure that if you have concerns about your child meeting these targets you are discussing these with them and their tutor.

Since half term, we have introduced a new register system in lessons whereby staff allocate a numerical score to each student based on their attitude to learning. This will allow us to calculate average scores for each student at the end of each week and half term which we will use as part of the Progress target for APB. Parents who have access to the SIMS Parent app will be able to see their child's scores for every lesson of the day as they are awarded. The scoring system is as follows:

| 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
|---|--|---|--|
| Excellent Attitude | Good Attitude | Below Average Attitude | Poor Attitude |
| Student gets at least one achievement point | The expected minimum for every student in every lesson | Student is given a verbal warning in the lesson | Student is removed from a lesson on a referral |

In terms of attendance, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that attendance is one of the biggest factors in student attainment. We set very high targets at LeAF Studio but for the right reasons – we want our students to be successful in both their academics and their specialisms. Please ensure that your child knows how important their attendance is and that you as their parent are encouraging them to be in school unless they are genuinely unwell or unable to attend. Since Covid, we have seen a massive increase in students being absent for very minor issues which do not necessitate them missing school. We all need to be supporting our young people and encouraging them to be resilient, even when they are feeling tired or slightly under the weather. A number of students have been removed from training for poor attendance following the APB review and we will continue to implement this where students' attendance falls below our expected standards.

Our most important new member of staff, Buffy the school dog, has also made a positive start to the year and appears to be loving life at LeAF Studio. She has overcome her initial fear of the slippery floor and is now quite happy mixing with all of the students at break times and working with them when needed in pastoral. She has also demonstrated a worrying talent for hoovering up any food dropped on the field outside, so students have had to be even more aware of dropping food and litter than usual!

SEND

Our vision for this academic year is for all students to have the support they need to thrive at LeAF and gather the tools in their toolbox they need once completing their time with us. This is critical to allow all students with an identified need to feel they can succeed and be part of society. We will be achieving this by making sure we are using a waded approach to support, which starts with creating students with identified needs a pupil passport. This information is then shared with staff, staff then have a very clear understanding of the strategies needed to be consistently implemented to make sure SEN students can access learning, feel part of our community, and add tools to their toolbox for life.

During this cost-of-living crisis, it is ever more important to be signposted to strategies and information around different SEN needs and support available within BCP. Below are some links to useful websites and organization that can help you navigate the ever-complex world of SEN support.

SENDIASS

This is a free service which can offer support and guidance around navigating the world of SEN policy and procedures.

Visit: [SENDiass4BCP](https://www.sendiass4bcpschools.co.uk/)

BCP Family HUB

This service is run by the Local Authority and can offer many free courses around supporting students with neurodiverse needs.

Visit: [Family hubs, early help and outreach centres](#)

Linwood School

Linwood School offers a wealth of courses and input if you are wanting to increase your knowledge of caring for students with Autism and ND students.

Visit: [Linwood Training Support & Advice](#)

Personal Development

In Personal Development this half term, Mr Jones organised a fantastic Personal Finance Day where students in Years 9 and 10 were taken off timetable to learn about all sorts of financial matters that might impact on them in the next few years, including understanding pay slips, borrowing money, renting and getting mortgages, taxation, investing and even online gambling, money mules and scams. The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive and we will be running further collapsed PD days over the rest of the year to cover other essential life skills that we feel our students need to know.



Careers Engagement Opportunities

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

Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to go to a Trust Careers Fayre – this was a successful event whereby several pupils discussed their future pathways in a very mature manner with a wide variety of employers. Thank you to our career's advisor, Amanda Hawkins who delivers 1:1 career advice to LeAF pupils.



Quality of Education Update

This academic year has been really positive so far! Students have settled in nicely to the high expectations and routines of the school and are focussed on all lessons, not just their specialism. Year 11 have started their mocks, and I am pleased to say they have approached these with a positive attitude and mindset. Students have been actively asking staff for more work including past papers in order to ensure that they meet their target grades in this round of mocks let alone in the summer live exams! Keep up the hard work, it will all be worth it.

English and Maths outcomes continue to be a key priority at LeAF, and staff are working hard to get students across the grades 4, 5 and 7 boundaries in both. Please support your child further at home with these subjects as parental involvement undoubtedly contributes to higher attainment.

Reading intervention started from September in order to support students with a lower reading age than their chronological age and the feedback from student voice is that they love it- some have made 8 months progress in 9 weeks! May I remind you that a reading book is part of the equipment students must bring to school every day- books make great Christmas presents!

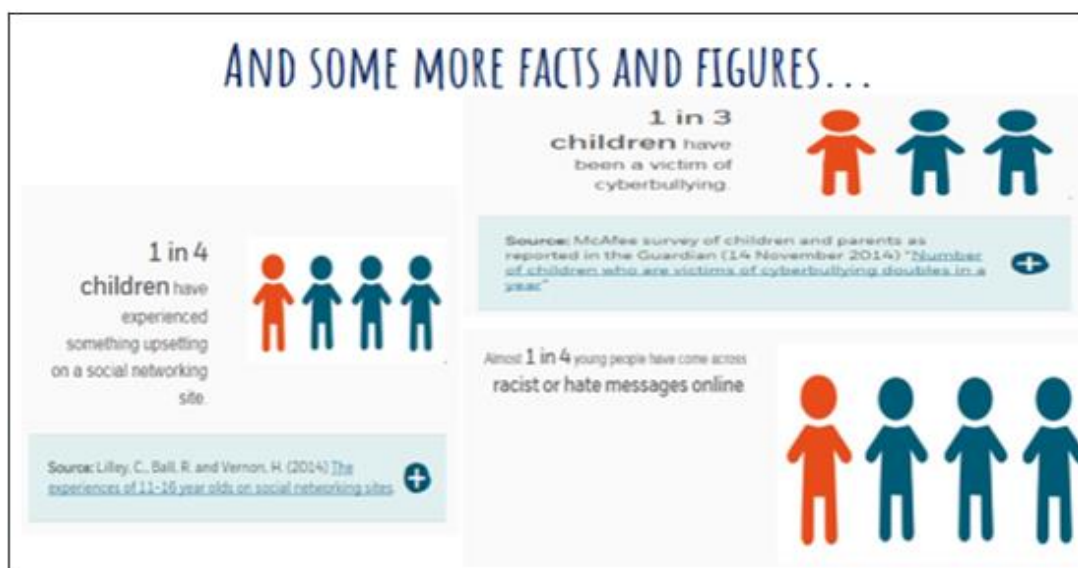
Whilst I have been dropping into lessons, I am noticing more and more the use of mini white boards which assesses your child's learning throughout the lesson and informs the teacher of the knowledge that they have retained. Retrieval practice is vital for learning and therefore we will be returning to the use of knowledge organisers in all subjects after Christmas instead of online platforms such as Tassomai. Home learning is key to your child's success and again, I would like your support in helping them by testing them on the facts that they have memorised. Please be aware that additional homework may be set by teachers for example, reading key chapters ahead of the lesson, learning MFL vocabulary on Active Learner, PE questions on Ever Learner and past papers. Please check Teams with your child so that they know exactly what has been set and the deadline.

Online Safety

Half (49%) of young people questions say they have given out personal information online

But by Contrast

5% of parents think their child has given out personal information online



How does the internet play a part in your own child's life?

PARENTS-TALK THE TALK! BE 'E-INTERESTED!'

There are real advantages in maintaining an open dialogue with your child about their internet use. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

- 1 Ask your children to tell you about the websites and apps they like to use and what they enjoy doing online.
- 2 Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- 3 Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
- 4 Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- 5 Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

English and Maths Crossover Advice

As we approach PPE2, and ultimately the live summer examinations, we understand the importance of your child's success and want to provide you with some guidance on how to support them securing Grades 4 and 5 in both English and Maths. These grades are fundamental as they open doors to further educational opportunities and future career paths.

Here are some strategies you can employ to assist your child in their preparation:

- 🌈 **Encourage Consistent Revision:** Emphasise the importance of regular revision sessions. Help your child create a study timetable that allows for consistent review of key skills in both English and Maths.
- 🌈 **Access to Resources:** Ensure your child has access to a variety of study materials. Utilise our class Teams pages, textbooks, online resources, past papers, and revision guides that specifically to the English and Maths curriculum.
- 🌈 **Practice, Practice, Practice:** Practice is key to success. Encourage your child to attempt past papers under timed conditions. This helps in familiarising them with the exam format and improves their time management skills.
- 🌈 **Seek Additional Support:** If your child is facing challenges in specific areas, consider seeking additional support through tutoring or extra help from their teachers. We offer a wide range of intervention and revision opportunities at LeAF.
- 🌈 **Maintain a Positive Environment:** Create a supportive environment at home. Offer encouragement, praise their efforts, and provide a calm atmosphere during their revision periods.
- 🌈 **Balanced lifestyle:** Ensure your child maintains a balanced lifestyle. Adequate sleep, healthy meals and breaks are essential for effective learning and retention of information.
- 🌈 **Encourage Self-Assessment:** Teach your child to self-assess their progress. Encourage them to identify areas they find challenging and focus on improving those aspects.

Lastly, remember to keep communication channels open with your child. Understand their concerns and provide guidance without exerting unnecessary pressure. We believe that with your support and the dedication of your child, they can achieve the grades they are aiming for in both English and Maths.

If you need any further support or advice please contact your child's class teacher or our subject leaders: tim.massey@leafstudio.co.uk (Maths) emma.barker-haines@leafstudio.co.uk (English)

Parental Communication

The vast majority of our parents and carers are friendly, supportive and eager to work with our staff to make sure their children get the best possible education and experience whilst at LeAF.



May I take this opportunity to remind parents to always consider how they communicate with staff, in both tone and respect. Due to teaching commitments, staff are not available for any meetings during the school day unless pre-arranged but will acknowledge receipt of communication from a parent within 24 hours during the working week and respond within five to ten working days if any further investigation is necessary.

An update from our Heads of Year

As we approach the end of November, we would like to bring your attention to a few important aspects of our school life. Firstly, we would like to emphasise the importance of adhering to our uniform expectations. It's essential that all students follow these guidelines. Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding our uniform policy, please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or visit our website for the school's uniform policy.

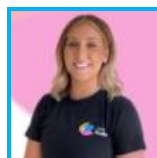
Secondly, we would like to address our home learning expectations. We've noticed an increase in home learning detentions this year. Your support in ensuring that students complete their homework is highly appreciated. Establishing a routine and space conducive to studying at home can significantly contribute to your child's academic success.

Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or any school-related matters, please reach out to their tutors in the first instance. They are available to address your queries and will escalate them to Heads of Year if necessary.

Academically, our students have been diligently preparing for upcoming assessments and projects. It's been heartening to witness their commitment to their studies and their enthusiasm for learning. Our teachers continue to provide invaluable support, ensuring that each student receives the guidance they need to succeed. Teachers want to ensure that students have a solid foundation in each topic, and consistent attendance helps achieve this goal. Missing classes can result in significant gaps in a student's understanding of the curriculum. Please work with the school to ensure your child's attendance is 100%.

Beyond the classrooms, our extracurricular activities have been flourishing. From sports tournaments to artistic performances, our students have been showcasing their talents and dedication. These activities play a crucial role in fostering teamwork, creativity, and a well-rounded educational experience.

As we head into the holiday season, we would like to express our gratitude for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your engagement plays a crucial role in the success of our students, and we truly appreciate it.

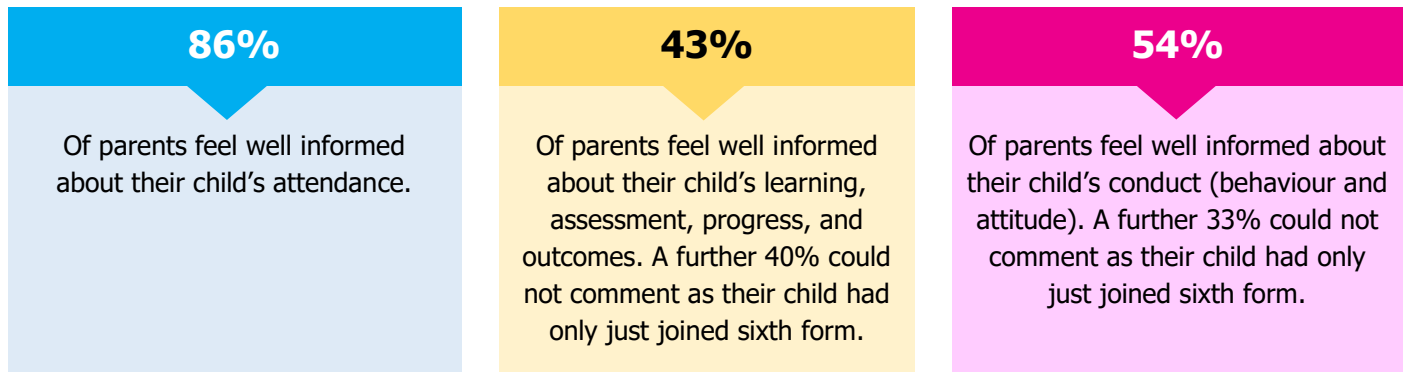


LS6 Update

LeAF Studio Post 16 provisions have had an amazing start to the year with our students exploring their future destinations through visits, workshops, qualification sessions and so much more. Our Post 16 provisions are made up of LeAF Studio Sixth Form, Rockley College, Bournemouth Academy of Modern Music and Dorset School of Acting.

We are proud of our Post 16 provision and over the recent months we are becoming more aligned to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students when they move on to their future destinations. We continue to drive forward each site to enable high levels of attendance which therefore enhances student outcomes.

In a recent parental survey linked to communication between sites and parents (81 of 213 parents completed):











We value your feedback and completing surveys sent out by LeAF Studio or Ambitions Academies Trust is incredibly helpful in providing us with information on how we can improve.




Additionally, you can contact sixthform@leafstudio.co.uk or contact our Head of Post 16 provision, Geoff Lake directly via Geoff.Lake@leafstudio.co.uk




Please regularly visit social media for news, updates, and further information.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| @leafstudioschool | @rockleycollege | @bamm_music_college | @dorsetschoolofacting |

Sport Update





- KS4**
-  Continued Football competitions for boys and girls in National, County and District cups.
 -  County and District Rugby Competitions
 -  Bournemouth Schools Basketball Competitions
 -  National, County and District Handball competitions
 -  National and County Badminton Competitions
 -  District Netball Competitions
 -  District and County Cross Country Meets
 -  Golf Competitions

- LS6**
-  January exams for our students - good luck!
 -  Dorset Cup Football fixtures - opposition TBC
 -  Basketball Fixtures.





- Trips & Events**
-  University visits for KS4 and LS6 trips
 -  Sport Psychology High Performance Interventions with Solent University
 -  Guest Speakers from Industry for careers and guidance

Performing Arts Update

Coming Soon:

-  Practical exams for GCSE Dance, Drama, Music and NCFE Music
-  Theatre trips
-  BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts exams
-  More college and university visits to LeAF Studio Sixth Form

Trips & events:

-  **Friday 26th January**
An Evening with Year 9, 10 and 11
-  **Saturday 27th January**
An Evening with Sixth Form
Ticket information coming soon!
-  **Friday 15th March**
Move It School Trip for those not performing
-  **Friday 15th March – Sunday 17th March**
Move It Performances

Training Fund

Please find details below of LeAF Studio and LS6's Pupil Support and Training Fund. We understand that the current cost of living crisis may not allow you to be part of this, but some parent/carers have requested further information and requested to sign up, so we are sharing to all. For further details, please visit our school website.

What are we asking for?

All we ask is that parents/carers or friends of LeAF Studio commit to a monthly payment of at least £5 – **that is just £1.25 per week**, which for the level of training pupils receive in school still represents exceptional value. If every family generously contributed at least £5 per month this would provide LeAF Studio and LS6 with a total of **£1500 per month**. Meaning on some months, Sport and Performing Arts could receive an additional **£750 per month**.

What do you need to do?

If you can do so, please set up a standing order via your online banking using the details to the right. If you can, please do this and help us support your young people. Thank you in advance for your support.

Bank: Lloyds Bank
Account Name: LeAF Studio School
Sort Code: 30-91-08
Account Number: 58638468
Reference: LSTF (pupil name)

Examples of recent spending include:

| School Wide | Sport | Performing Arts |
|--|---|--|
|  Transport coverage for academic trips |  New wheeled goalposts |  Subsidised trips & performances |
|  Table tennis tables for breaktime fun |  New team kits |  Summer production costs |
|  Picnic tables for the field |  Updated gym equipment |  Black out curtains for the studios |
| |  Professional training from external coaches |  Acro mats |
| |  Trips to professional clubs and facilities |  Tap floor |

Upcoming Events Calendar

| | |
|---|---|
| 5 th December | Yr9 Business Tenner Challenge All students are able to purchase goods during lunch break |
| 12 th December | Flu Immunisations GCSE Dance Exam Rehearsal |
| 13 th December | Live Dance GCSE Exam |
| 14 th December | Yr11 & 13 - Reports home to parents |
| 15 th December | Last day of term - 12.15pm finish for all students |
| 2 nd January | Inset Day – School closed to all pupils except Yr11 |
| 4 th January | Yr11 Parents Evening |
| 8 th January | Yr9 Assessment Week |
| 11 th January | Yr13 A-Level feedback and L3 BTEC concerns Parents Evening |
| 18 th January | Yr12 Parents Evening |
| 22 nd – 1 st February | Yr11 & 13 – PPE2 Exams |
| 1 st February | Yr9 Parents Evening |
| 2 nd February | Inset Day – School closed to all pupils except Yr11 |

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



Mrs N Lapskas
Principal
LeAF Studio School