

29th January 2024

Dear parents / carers,

I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you with some important updates for this half term. As always, we are constantly reviewing and looking to improve what we do at LeAF Studio and so please see below for key information that will be relevant to your child.

Values

Over the last few months, we have been looking at ways that we can further develop the culture of LeAF Studio as a community. Whilst academic outcomes and specialism progress are clearly very important, we have always emphasised to the students the importance of character and developing them as well rounded, compassionate human beings who can go out into the wider world as productive members of society.

As a result, we have been looking at launching some Core Values which will shape the future of our school community. As part of this, we want to get the views and ideas of all stakeholders, from staff and students to parents and governors, to enable us to choose some Core Values that we believe represent everything we want our young people to be. After extensive consultation, we have created a shortlist of key words which cover the essential values that are important to us and would like to get your input to help choose the final values for the school.

If you would like to view the proposed Core Values and have your say on these, then please click on the link [here](#) to complete a very quick survey where you can vote for the words and values that you think are best. We will be launching these after February half term and by September 2024 our entire behaviour and rewards policies will be changed to reflect these and truly make them at the heart of the school.

Behaviour

As you will be aware, the APB system has been running successfully for the last two half terms. The impact on Attendance, Progress & Behaviour has been very positive, with over 96% of the students meeting these targets and therefore being eligible for training, fixtures, shows etc. However, one issue that has been identified is with homework, as a number of students whose general behaviour is good are getting lots of behaviour points for not completing this properly.

As a result, we have now added homework points into the Progress part of APB, which means that if students are regularly not completing homework or attending homework detentions then they will now also be removed from training for the following half term and will instead use this time to catch up on their homework and get back into the habit of completing it regularly. All homework is designed to support the work that students are doing in class and as such it plays a big role in their final academic outcomes, so completing it is a non-negotiable for us as a school community.

LeAF Studio

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT
Jon Webb, BA (Hons), Director of Secondary Education
Nadine Lapskas, BSc, Principal

www.leafstudio.co.uk

E office@leafstudio.co.uk
T 01202 578886
Holloway Avenue, Bournemouth. BH11 9JW

Whilst on the subject of homework, please be reminded that if your child does get a homework detention and you are not sure what it is for, you will need to contact the subject teacher who set it and they will be able to update you accordingly.

Equipment

One of the concerns raised by Heads of Year recently is the number of students who have not got the correct equipment with them in school. This seems particularly prevalent with Maths equipment such as protractors and calculators. Not only does this cause disruption in lessons and gets students behaviour points, it also hampers their progress as they are not able to practice using this equipment in class and therefore struggle with it when it comes to their exams. Please talk to your child and ensure they have everything they need before coming to school to prevent this happening.

Please also note that we have added whiteboard pens to the equipment list for all students from this half term. Every student has already been given two whiteboard pens to keep and use in class but if they lose or use these up then they will be expected to provide their own in the future.

Parking

We have been made aware of a number of complaints regarding parents parking and dropping students off on the yellow zig zags outside of the main school entrance. In addition, there have been several near misses involving students crossing the road outside of school, which is a serious concern. We have contacted BCP about this issue and the lines have now been repainted to make them clearer, but parents are reminded that **it is illegal to park on these lines** and that there is plenty of parking further up on Holloway Avenue where students can be dropped off safely. BCP will be monitoring the situation and have the power to issue Penalty Charge Notices for anyone stopping on these lines, so please can all parents refrain from doing this to help ensure the safety of all our students.

Careers

It has been a busy time for our Careers programme, particularly for Years 10 and 11. Year 10 have been organising their work experience placements for the summer term and Year 11 are busy applying for their Post-16 destinations next year. We do have access to a Careers Advisor in school, who works on a Wednesday and Thursday, and many of our students have already had appointments with her to help select placements or apply for places next year.

If your child is in Year 10 and still does not have a placement then please email Mrs Burton at sam.burton@leafstudio.co.uk and she can book an appointment for your child to get some further support in securing a work experience place.

Similarly, if your child is in Year 11 and still does not have a confirmed destination for next year then please email Mrs Watt at george.watt@leafstudio.co.uk and again she can book an appointment for your child to get some support in applying for places for next year.

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In addition to this, we have our next **Careers Week** taking place from 5th – 9th February, where students will be learning all about apprenticeships as part of National Apprenticeship Week. Apprenticeships have changed so much over the last few years, and they are now an amazing avenue for some students to take, so we will be educating them about this route and looking at all of the potential positives and negatives of choosing this pathway. We will also be taking some selected students to the Careers and Apprenticeship Show at the BIC in March and further information will be coming out to those parents nearer the time.

Thanks as always for your ongoing support as parents – it really does make a massive difference in your children's lives.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Clark

Vice Principal – Inclusion

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