

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

6 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you enjoyed a restful holiday and were able to catch up with friends and family. It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school this week and I have enjoyed visiting lessons to see the range of learning taking place.

Parent Drop In Sessions

The second of our parent drop in sessions will be on Wednesday 11 January where a member of the senior leadership team will be available between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. When you arrive, please make yourself known to the member of staff in Main Reception who will direct you to The Conference Room. No appointment is necessary.

Teaching & Learning Toolkit

This year we took the decision to change our student planner and create a teaching and learning toolkit for students as well as an e-student handbook. Each student was given a toolkit in September and the handbook was emailed to them. Both can be found on the website [here](#) and [here](#).

The teaching and learning toolkit is the single point of reference for supporting students with the organisation of their learning. It encompasses all the key teaching tools we use, provides detailed information regarding retrieval practice, contains their own reflections on progress and target setting and provides a diary for self-organisation and logging home learning.

The expectation is that this booklet is on the desk at the start of every lesson and that it is regularly referred to. Ms Nicholson will be talking to students about how important this resource is throughout assembly next week. Please can you ensure your child has their student toolkit with them each day and order them a new one via parent pay, if they have misplaced it.

Home learning

There is an expectation that students are working outside of school for around 60-70 minutes per evening. We ask staff to record home learning on Classcharts. We also ask them to record it in their toolkits as we believe it is important to support them in their organisation and developing effective study habits, as well as giving them time to process what has been asked of them and raise any questions they may have. If you have any concerns about the amount of home learning that is being set, please raise these with your child's Head of Year.

Focus on your Future – key dates for Years 9- 13

For most of our year groups this time of year is one where they are focused on their next steps and being as aspirational and ambitious as possible. As parents your support with the events listed below makes a huge difference and therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of what is happening over the next month:

Year 9 – Selecting their KS4 options.

This process will be launched in assembly this week by Ms Nicholson, and students will be provided with an opportunity to hear from David Binns from Sanako (<https://sanako.com/>) who will be giving an industry talk to students about the value of learning a foreign language at job interview time and in their chosen careers.

The school website will also be updated with the latest options information by Friday 13 January, and you and your child are invited into school on Tuesday 17 January in order to learn about the subjects on offer and the choices that our Year 9 students need to make by Friday 10 February.

Year 10- GCSE target setting.

We will also be explaining our GCSE Target Setting process to Year 10 next week in assembly, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all Year 10 students and their parents into school for a 30-minute presentation in school on Thursday 26 January at 6pm. Following that meeting all students will spend time looking at their current progress and their career aspirations in order to help them set meaningful targets with their class teachers.

Year 11 – Parents Evening & Sixth Form applications.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday evening at parents evening, if you haven't made appointments yet, please do so. It is important that we can talk to you with your child at this stage in their school life; particularly as the progress reports and mock grades will be shared at that meeting. It is also a great opportunity to ensure that applications to sixth form are ready prior to the deadline for their submission of Friday 13 January.

Year 12 – Target Setting.

Just like at GCSE we find that targets are most effective when they are driven by students and the student has a good understanding of why they need a certain outcome and what they will need to do to secure the grade they want. Therefore, we will also be launching the Key Stage 5 target setting process with Year 12 through tutor period on 31 January. So please take time to talk to your child and to look at the requirements for entry to university and at the results from their mock exams in order to support them in setting ambitious targets for themselves.

Year 13 – Parents Evening.

Well done to all the Year 13 students who have now submitted their UCAS applications. The booking system for parents evening is now open, and we look forward to meeting with you all on Wednesday 25 January.

Preventing the spread of infectious diseases

You may have seen information in the press this week about not sending students into school if they have a fever or are unwell. The DfE have asked us to share their advice how to minimise the spread of COVID, flu and Strep A in schools and the community as we return after the holidays. Whilst it is important to minimise the spread of infection, it is also important that students do attend school if they are well enough to do so. If your child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, they can continue to attend school. If you are not sure whether to send your child in, please do get in touch and we will be happy to advise.

Students should also ensure they regularly wash their hands with soap and hot water, and it is advisable to carry their own hand sanitiser. Please also remind your child that they should cover their mouth and

nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands or use sanitiser after using or disposing of tissues.

The government advice about returning to school, can be found [here](#).

Changes to Reflections

As you know at Lawnswood we refer to detentions as reflections. This term there are some changes that I would like to bring to your attention regarding reflections. All reflections will now take place after school in the Key Stage 3 diner, this is so that students always know where to go and at what time. There are 3 types of reflections that vary in length; Green for 15 minutes, Amber for 30 minutes and Red for 60 minutes. The idea is that students attend a Green reflection for 15 minutes and that is the end of the incident, if they do not attend then the consequence escalates to Amber and Red as appropriate. We appreciate that staying after school can be disruptive to family routines and therefore thank you for your support in ensuring that your child attends.

If your child arrives late to school or they are removed to a support room during the day or if they truant, they must attend a reflection on the same day. You can keep track of your child's behaviour and attendance via the Classcharts app. If you need the code to access the Classcharts, please contact your child's Year Team.

Key dates for your diary

Monday 9 January

Year 8 commitment fortnight starts
CTEC exams – IT (9am) and Business (2pm)
CNAT HSC

Tuesday 10 January

CTEC & CNATs 9am

Wednesday 11 January

Year 11 parent/carer evening
CTECs

Thursday 12 January

Flu immunisations for years 7, 8 & 9
CTECs

Friday 6 January

Sixth form application deadlines
Focus on Your Future talk – MFL, David Binns, 8.30am
CTECs

Thank you for taking the time to read this update and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming face to face events.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell

Headteacher