

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family are safe and well and that your child continues to enjoy being back at school. It seems difficult to believe that we have been living and working in a global pandemic for a year now. When I think back to my communication with you this last year it has reminded me of what we have coped with as a school community and I would like to thank you for your support. I must admit, it feels good to be writing to you with more 'normal' information today.

Creative Pathways Opportunity for Y9 and Y12 students

We have an amazing offer from Leeds Arts University to support students at Lawnswood School who are interested in a creative career. The University will guide Y9 students through a 5-year programme (2 years for Y12 students) that involves developing their portfolio of work, providing access to world-class facilities and resources, visiting collections and museums, and learning about university applications. The University recognises that students can change their mind and may not remain involved in the full programme, however we ask that students think very carefully before applying so that places go to those who will benefit most from the longer-term commitment. Students who are interested in creative writing, animation, graphic design, comic & concept art, filmmaking, photography, textile design, illustration and/or fine art are invited to apply for a place. Students have heard about the opportunity during tutor period this week and will have the opportunity to discuss it with their art teacher. Please take time to talk about this opportunity with your child: parents & carers of successful applicants will be invited to the launch event. Application forms will be sent to students' inboxes on Monday and the closing date is 1 April.

Centre Assessed Grades, Summer 2021

All parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students should have received a letter this week outlining our approach to assessment and the awarding of qualifications. If you have not received this a copy can be found in the Exams section of our school website.

Rescheduled Staff Training Day – Monday 7 June

During the last lockdown we cancelled the February training day for staff as we felt that it was important to maintain a routine for students, and that the day could be put to better use later in the year. We have decided to now hold this training day on Monday 7 June, so that staff can spend time ensuring that they have engaged fully in all exam board training and that the grades we are awarding to students in the summer are accurate and fair.

Key Stage 4 PE kit and uniform

Currently students in Years 10 and 11 have been attending school in their PE kit on the days that they have PE. After Easter they will need to wear their school uniform and bring their PE kit to change in to. For a reminder of what PE kit is required, you can look in your child's planner on page 2.

Also, after Easter we expect all students to be in full school uniform, including shoes. As well as page 2 of the planner, our school uniform is detailed on our website, which can be found by clicking [here](#). Whilst we are mindful that different elements of uniform may have been more difficult to source recently, we believe it is reasonable for our high expectations of uniform to be possible after the Easter holidays. If you are having difficulty with any aspects of uniform, please get in touch with your child's year team who will be happy to help.

Financial support if you need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating

If you are on a low income and you need to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating, you may be eligible for financial support from your local authority through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme is open to people who live in England and who meet the following criteria:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate; this is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period;
- are employed or self-employed;
- are unable to work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result;
- they are currently receiving or are the partner of someone in the same household who is receiving at least one of the following benefits:
 - Universal Credit
 - Working Tax Credit
 - income-based Employment and Support Allowance
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - Income Support
 - Housing Benefit
 - Pension Credit
- Their child or young person:
 - is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
 - has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Discretionary payments are also available for people on low incomes who are not on means-tested benefits but who may still face hardship as a result of the requirement to self-isolate. Your local authority may have additional eligibility criteria in place for discretionary payments.

If you are eligible, you will receive a £500 payment from your local authority in addition to any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay you receive currently. If you are unsure which local authority you should claim from, you can check on Find your Local Council on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Your local authority will contact your child's school to verify the information you provide about your child as part of the process of confirming whether you are eligible for a payment.

You can see the full eligibility criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme and find out how to apply at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>.

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria listed above and would like to apply to your local authority for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, you should provide this letter to your local authority to support your application. You will not be able to make an application for a payment from the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme without this letter.

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We break up for Easter next week on Thursday 1 April and I will write to you again then. Thursday is a normal school day which finishes at the usual time.

Key Dates:

In the next few weeks, you may want to be aware of the following:

Friday 2 April

Easter break. School will be closed to all students.

Monday 19 April

School re-opens for the summer term.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher