

Principal: Mrs N Lapskas

29th March 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

The light evenings are finally here and with these comes the countdown to the final GCSE exams for Year 11!

Academic update

It's certainly been a very busy half term for academic subjects, in particular for Years 11 and 13 as they approach their final exams.

There have been practical exams in Dance and Drama as well as controlled assessments for Creative Media and Games Design. We have also organised a trip to the cinema to watch the latest release of *Macbeth* to support Year 10 and 11 students for their Literature exam.

Students in Year 11 and 13 completed a full set of PPEs (mocks) in February and March, which was the final opportunity for students to practice under full exam conditions. Results from these were significantly up from the November mocks and continue to show positive progress for our students.

On Thursday 29th March we held our first mentoring day, where Year 11 students received comprehensive mentoring support in the build up to their summer exams. Each student met with parents and their mentor to discuss the latest PPE results, find out about personalised targets for each subject and also to plan revision timetables for the remaining few weeks.

In addition, staff have put together a packed Easter revision week for Year 11 running from Monday 9th to Friday 13th April for all Year 11 students. Please see our website for further information.

As always, our focus remains on ensuring all students get the best possible academic results alongside their specialist training in order to prepare them for the dual careers that many of them will go on to enjoy.

Inclusion Update

We are happy to announce the appointment of our Teaching Assistant Mrs Regan to our Inclusion team. She has been working with us since September and is a valued member of our growing support team.

The department has been working with colleagues in our Trust to conduct a comprehensive review of Inclusion at LeAF Studio school. We have worked hard to centralise records and information to ensure that we are in the best position to help our students. Our thanks to Mrs Yarrow who has been helping with her advice and recommendations and to Miss Curtis for all of her hard work.

Exam preparations were completed for Year 11 students to support any needs during exams. We will now shift our focus to Year 10 students and complete assessments where required.

Some students have been highlighted at parents' evening and through staff referrals and we will be conducting further assessments following the Easter break.

We have also been fortunate to work with a colleague from the Dorset Speech and Language service. She has been providing us with information regarding supporting students with specific language and communication difficulties, and these strategies will help us to support students both in their lessons and in withdrawal support sessions.

We are very much looking forward to the summer term where we will continue the progress we are making across all areas of Inclusion.

Careers Update

Careers at LeAF Studio has taken off massively this half term after the success of the Careers Fair in January. All our Year 11 students know what they would like to do Post-16 and are in the process of finalising positions at their chosen educational establishment or apprenticeship. Ansbury Guidance and Bournemouth and Poole College are coming to LeAF Studio after Easter to perform mock interviews with all Year 11s, giving them confidence going forward with their futures.

Year 10 are in the process of finding work experience placements for the summer term and are excited to find out what the wider world offers young people. This will help them make informed choices about their future pathways in Year 11.

Year 12 have attended a Future Day at Bournemouth and Poole College (Higher Education) getting an insight into life at University. They participated in workshops and were a credit to our school - asking lots of questions and engaging fully with the information provided. The majority of our students are intending to stay in education whether it be at university or at vocational colleges.

Literacy Update

This term saw the widespread implementation of the Literacy marking policy. Each student has been previously introduced to it in English lessons through teacher and peer marking. The marking of spelling, punctuation and grammar is now completed in every subject across the school. The policy will help our students identify their own weakness in extended writing, regardless of the subject, and provide them with the opportunity to improve their literacy on a consistent basis.

A writing frame for GCSE Drama was trialled this term (similar to the English Literature writing frame) this will assist them in developing their answers in Drama. It allows them to analyse their set works in a more enhanced way.

A field trip to Odeon in Bournemouth was also arranged by Miss Lalor. A group of 90 students went to see the new film of *Macbeth* in a private screening. With the play being in Shakespearean English, the viewing was designed to assist the students with their understanding of a GCSE text. A thoroughly good time was had by all.

Sport Specialism update

The Spring Term has continued to provide the opportunity for our student athletes to achieve many successes across a number of sporting disciplines.

The football programme has reached its highest level of competition to date, with both the Year 9 and Year 10 teams reaching the semi-finals of the ESFA Small Schools Cup. The quality of play within both squads has noticeably improved throughout the season, and has drawn compliments from opposition coaches and match officials as the teams have progressed to reach the last 4 in the country in this national competition. In addition to this, the Year 10 team have also had success closer to home, reaching the final of the County Cup this month.

Individual honours have been bestowed on two of our female players who have both represented the England U15 ESFA team in the Bob Docherty Cup, beating Wales 2-0 before losing out to a very strong Republic of Ireland team in the final. Huge congratulations to Year 9 Be-Be and Year 10 Amber, who was also given the honour of captaining the England team.

Another of our female players, Year 10 Lily, was recently instrumental in her AFC Bournemouth team winning the Hampshire Cup, as she set up one goal and scored another. Additionally, AFC Bournemouth player and Year 9 athlete Ben has been selected by the FA to take part in the England Men's Development Goalkeeper training camp at St George's Park in April.

As we look forwards towards further progressing the football programme next season to support all of our players to achieve their potential, plans are already underway for an overseas training trip in 2019, watch this space for more details...

Our individual athletes have continued to impress on the regional and national stage this term; notably Year 9 Amelia has achieved a county title and three medals along with regional qualifying times at the Dorset Swimming Championships, as well as helping Dorset Junior Girls win the Stedman Cup at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Leeds at the start of this month.

Following on from her British title and British record earlier in the year, we are very happy to report that Year 10 Jaime-Lei has been selected to represent Great Britain at the World Powerlifting Championships in Canada later this year.

In Badminton, Year 10 Reuben recently won silver at the U17 Gold tournament in Surrey, playing two years up and beating the no.1 seed on the way to the final.

In Golf, Year 11 Ben picked up first place and the trophy for the Daily Mail Competition held at Bulbury Woods Golf Club on March 24th.

Our students and staff will be keenly watching the forthcoming Commonwealth Games as a number of athletes who train at LeAF will be competing for England in Australia next month. Poole Swimming Club's Jacob Peters, who trains at LeAF with Mr Fortescue-Norris for S&C support, will be competing in the 200m Butterfly, whilst both the ladies and men's Beach Volleyball teams of Jess Grimson & Vicky Palmer and Chris Gregory & Jake Sheaf, coached by our very own Mr Pitman, will be playing on the Gold Coast after preparing for the Games in our indoor beach facility. We wish them all the very best of luck in their respective competitions.

Stage & Screen Specialism update

This term we have successfully auditioned for our Summer Showcase, with all parts being assigned. This summer's show will celebrate the true talent of LeAF Stage & Screen in a variety of performance pieces. All students in LeAF Stage & Screen are provided with the opportunity to perform at The Layard Theatre on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th July and there will be a meeting on Friday 27 April for all students who gained a principal part. Tickets for the show will be available on 28 May at 8am from www.ticketsource.co.uk/leafstudioschool

We are fast approaching the Rock Challenge Southern Premier final which takes place on Saturday 28 April at Portsmouth Guildhall. Tickets are available to purchase directly from the

Portsmouth Guildhall. Rehearsals for Rock Challenge will continue from the first week back after the Easter break. We hope all of our supporters will cheer loudly and support our team.

Year 12 BTEC Performing Arts students have spent two weeks touring their World War 2 performance piece to local care homes. This has been a fantastic opportunity for Year 12 as they have adapted to different locations and performance spaces. We have received positive feedback from all events.

Year 11 GCSE dancers have completed their practical examination which forms 60% of their final grade and Year 11 Drama students will have their final practical exam on Friday 20 April.

In addition, University of Winchester 3rd year students provided LeAF GCSE dancers with the opportunity to workshop with them and watch their touring work. This was an excellent opportunity for our students as they were able to ask the degree students questions regarding the course at Winchester.

We have successfully launched our 2019 New York residential trip and all 55 places were secured with no disappointment. If any student wishes to be considered for the reserve list, please speak with Mr Lake directly.

General information

Thank you to those parents that have paid the voluntary contributions, however, with only 14% of the school having made any contribution, I am sad to have to inform you we will not be paying for onsite physiotherapists from September 2018. We are however, currently in discussions at how we can make the physiotherapists available through parents paying direct, as they offer a much cheaper rate through the school than an outside therapist and over 150 of our students have used this service this academic year.

If you wish to support the school to ensure we can continue to enrich the students' time at LeAF Studio (in line with many other schools) we are requesting that parents make a voluntary contribution of £20 per term, £60 across the academic year (per student / family) to support the continuation of these wonderful opportunities. If you are able to, we would be grateful for any help – you can pay by cheque (made out to LeAF Studio), cash or online through ParentPay.

Safeguarding

Students are aware that across LeAF Studio we are all responsible for safeguarding. If you have any concerns in regards to your child in school please do not hesitate to make contact with;

- Miss Curtis (Pastoral Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead)
- Mr Phillips (SEND Co and Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead) or
- Myself as the Designated Safeguard Lead.

Additional help and further information for parents can be found on our website <http://studioschool.leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk/safeguarding.html>. This includes lots of information regarding Help Services within each Local Authority as well as national services such as ChildLine and NSPCC who have videos to support a variety of concerns, from signs of abuse through to use of social media.

Parent view

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/give-your-views>

In order to help us continually improve we would really like any current parent/carers to complete an Ofsted review of LeAF Studio via the above link. The link can also be found on the homepage of our website. Many thanks in advance.

Forthcoming Events

- 16/04/2018
 - **Inset day** – school closed to students
- 17/04/2018
 - **School open to all students**
- 19/04/2018
 - **Year 11 Drama collapsed day** - practical exam practice
- 20/04/2018 until 09/03/2018
 - **Year 11 Drama final practical exam**
- 23/04/2018
 - **Year 11 GCSE Dance Theory C2** – 1:30pm – 4:30pm
- 25/04/2018 & 26/04/2018
 - **Year 11 live MFL speaking exams** - all languages
- 27/04/2018
 - **Rock Challenge all day rehearsal**
- 28/04/2018
 - **Rock Challenge Premier Final** – Portsmouth
- 9/05/2018
 - **Blood Brothers Trip** – evening event for Stage & Screen
- 14/05/2018
 - **GCSE Exams commence for all Year 11**

Many thanks for all your support this half term.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Lapskas

Principal