

Principal: Mrs N Lapskas

25th May 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

GCSE exams are well under way for our Year 11 students which can only mean we are approaching the final run down to the summer holidays.

Academic update

It has been another very busy term for the academic subjects at LeAF Studio as we continue to strive for academic success for all our students alongside their specialisms.

Obviously, much of the focus has been on the GCSE and A Level exams, as well as various external assessments for BTEC and NCFE subjects. Despite this being the first year of us being our own official exam centre, all of the exams have run very smoothly and the students have generally been a credit to the school. Mrs Hawkins has done a phenomenal job of coordinating the entire exam season and the lack of issues is testament to her dedication and thoroughness.

Following a busy Easter revision programme, there are a further set of sessions planned for the forthcoming half term holiday and staff have given up a considerable amount of time to support students as they prepare for their exams. In addition, daily collapsed sessions have been running before each exam to give students a final boost before they sit each paper.

Our mentoring day just before Easter was critical in providing clear support for every student in Year 11 and many students came back after the holiday with a renewed work ethic and positive attitude which was obvious to all staff. The success of this day means that it will definitely be repeated next year with our current Year 10 cohort. Years 9 and 10 will be facing their own end of year exams soon and many subjects have already shared revision guidance with them to help them prepare for these important assessments next half term.

Away from exams, we are currently reviewing the core sets in English, Maths and Science for Years 9 and 10 and there will be a number of changes made following the half term holiday. This will help us ensure that all students are in the correct group to allow them to reach their full potential.

Learning & Teaching Update

A classroom where stretch and challenge is embedded is one where students know the standard they are aiming for, to actively seek out feedback to reach that standard, and have the tools to move their own learning forward by using this feedback to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Creating a Stretch and Challenge School is about more than adopting Stretch and Challenge teaching strategies or ambitious targets. It's about creating an ethos of ambition, aspiration and passion for learning which pervades the school so strongly you can almost taste it on your tongue!

LeAF Studio always strives to nurture student talents and academic ability through its ethos and expectations. Our aim is for our students to feel challenged in the classroom and set themselves high academic targets. Through our bespoke curriculum and intervention sessions our objective is to deliver a programme of study that challenges our students in all subject areas.

Our current focus at LeAF Studio is grow and develop Stretch and Challenge learners, who want to question, investigate and analyse. We've introduced 'The Question Machine' to our Year 9 learners to promote ownership of their learning and to encourage them to develop their thinking skills. We have had some amazing responses and look to roll this out in all lessons and Year groups.



Last minute GCSE Biology revision with Mr Sorensen

Further to this, our staff have been sharing good practice and considering 'Big Goals' and 'Learning Hooks'. As a creative school with creative learners we are exploring new approaches to engaging students as soon as they enter our learning environments. Over the course of the last two weeks, staff have participated in group activities, reflecting on engagement and creating adaptable tools that can be accessed across the curriculum.



57 of our Year 10 students were selected for publication in the Young Writers "Stranger Sagas" writing competition

Finally, we would like to congratulate our trainee Dance teacher, Miss Magookin, who has recently been awarded the highest grade achievable in her final review of her trainee teaching programme. A huge well done!!

Inclusion Update

The focus for the SEN department this term has been supporting our students undertaking their GCSE examinations. Examination Access Arrangements are formal support that can be put in place to assist students in examinations who would otherwise be at a significant disadvantage

compared to their peers due to their difficulty or disability. This ongoing process will now switch focus to our Year 10 students, identifying students who will undertake eligibility assessments over the coming months. Teachers will share information with the SEN team regarding concerns and support which is implemented in class and this will be used as the basis for identifying eligible students.

The Examinations Inspector who visited our centre early in the exam season was very complimentary at the support and procedures that we have put in place for this our first season as an Examination Centre.

Our teaching assistants have been collaborating with teachers to develop literacy resources to support each subject area. This work will help to support students who need assistance learning new vocabulary. These resources are available to teachers to share within their classrooms and for students to take home when learning vocabulary for new topics.

Careers Update

Our Year 10 students have been busy getting ready for their experience of the world of work which will be taking place between Monday 9th and Friday 20th July. Students have organised a wide range of different experiences across sport and performing arts as well as exploring wider possibilities in other industries.

The Year 11 students have recently taken part in an interview with Ansbury Guidance to discuss their future career pathways and the skills required. The guidance counsellor was very impressed as all of the students involved had a clear understanding of their next step in their individual pathway, she said "I have enjoyed meeting the students here at LeAF, they have been an interesting and inspiring bunch!"

Our Post-16 students are looking forward to a visit from Southampton Solent University after half term to discuss higher education options in preparation for their UCAS applications which they will be starting in September.

Literacy Update

This term a whole school Literacy Policy was created. This outlines our commitment to ensuring that literacy, both written and spoken, is encouraged throughout the school. As Literacy is vital for a successful life, it falls upon all of us to ensure we are modelling and promoting a high fluency.

Handwriting is one of the cornerstone of literacy and we are dedicated to trying to improve it in our school. It not only effects the student life at school but their employability in future life. With this in mind, plans have also been put in place to run handwriting sessions with select year 9 students.

Sport Specialism update

Following on from the successes of our football squads in the first half of the year, it has been the turn of a number of our individual student athletes to shine as they have achieved a range of accolades over the past half term.

In the extremely competitive world of cycling, Year 9 student athlete Jamie has demonstrated his talent and versatility across a number of disciplines since the New Year, most recently

culminating in him winning all four races in Group 6 of British Cycling's National Youth Omnium series. This dominating achievement means Jamie is currently ranked 2nd in the UK for Road and Track Cycling, and he is now working hard towards achieving further success at the National Final in Derby in August.

Year 9 student athlete Amelia has continued to build on her successes earlier in the year, having already competed in regional and national championships for cross-country and helping Dorset Junior Girls win the Stedman Cup at English Schools in the process. This half term Amelia competed in a qualifying competition for Biathle with the aim of gaining selection for the national squad. With a combined swim / run performance of 7:46.1 Amelia took 4th place, and more importantly was a full 40 seconds inside the qualifying time. As a result Amelia has been selected to represent Great Britain at the European Biathle Championships in Germany at the end of July!

In athletics, Year 10 Logan put in a fantastic performance at the Dorset County Athletics Championships on 13th May, winning the county U17 Long Jump title with a PB jump of 6.35m (19cm further than the winner of the U20 event!). Logan is following in the footsteps of some world class long jumpers at Bournemouth AC, we look forward to seeing him continue to aspire and achieve to his potential over the remainder of the season.

Year 10 gymnast Macy won the England Championship qualifying competition for DMT (Double Mini Trampoline) at Telford on 13th May, a great step towards the podium at the national championships later this summer. Our Head of PE Mr Holman has been coaching and supporting Macy towards achieving this success, so a big well done to you both, a great team!

In swimming, Year 11 Teagan has been carefully balancing the demands of GCSE exams and revision with training and competing in the South West Regional Swimming Championships. Over two separate weekends Teagan raced in a number of events, successfully winning three regional bronze medals in the U18 1500m, 800m and team relay. It has been excellent to see how the partnership between Poole Swimming Club and LeAF Studio is continuing to progress and we look forward to welcoming more swimmers from the club to LeAF Studio in September.

Year 12 golfer Lauren caught the eye of the county selectors at the recent Ladies competition at Dudsbury Golf Club, gaining selection to represent Dorset Schools at the South West of England Schools Golf Championship at Wells Golf Club on the 29th May. We wish Lauren and the rest of her team all the very best for a successful competition.

Whilst our footballers have come to the end of their school competitions, our AFC Bournemouth U15 academy players have continued to compete in the EFL Floodlit Cup. Year 10 student athletes Jake, Jack and Brandon all played in the final against Bristol Rovers on 15th May, helping the team to a 2-0 victory. Congratulations to all three of you and the rest of the AFC Bournemouth team on a brilliant achievement.

Stage & Screen Specialism update

Congratulations! We are delighted that we have won the Southern Premier Final which was held in Portsmouth on Saturday 28 June. This now means we compete at the National Final on **Saturday 14 July in Rotherham**. The Rock Challenge National Final only happens once every three years and this is where we see the best UK teams compete against each other for the prestigious title. Thank you to everyone who has supported our team so far.

Fundraising: As part of our journey to the National Final we will hold fundraising events to keep costs down for the performers. We will be holding a quiz night, selling copies of previous Rock Challenge performances and hopefully a few smaller fundraising activities. More details regarding the quiz night will follow shortly. Previous Rock Challenge performances can be obtained by bringing a memory stick to Mr Lake and paying **£1 per performance** you would like added. The performances we have available are:

- 2012 – Hiroshima (Bournemouth Heat, Portsmouth Open Final and Milton Keynes National Final)
- 2013 – Hillsborough Disaster (Bournemouth Showcase and Portsmouth Premier Final)
- 2014 – Can you see them now? Bus 174 (Bournemouth Showcase and Portsmouth Premier Final)
- 2015 – Perfectly Misplaced (Bournemouth Showcase, Portsmouth Premier Final and Milton Keynes National Final)
- 2016 – Shattered Reflection, Frozen Heart (Bournemouth Showcase and Portsmouth Premier Final)
- 2017 – This is NOT our home! (Bournemouth Showcase and Portsmouth Premier Final)
- 2018 – Through Innocent Eyes (Bournemouth Showcase and Portsmouth Premier Final)

We are also delighted to welcome parents to LeAF Studio MSC at 17:30pm on Thursday 12 July to watch the final dress run through of our entry. The students are excited at this prospect and I hope many of you will join us. For the pleasure of watching our final run through we would like to ask parents, supporters and friends donate a minimum of £2 on the evening. There will be buckets and collectors at the door. Please feel free to bring anyone. I will obtain a rough number from the students during our rehearsals or you can let me know on the Supporters Facebook page.

Should you wish to launch your own fundraising event, please contact Mr Lake initially via telephone or email as any support would be gratefully appreciated. GLake@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk or 01202 578886 ext 0205.

We would like to thank KKS Mortgage & Financial Services, Hearnest Estate Agents (Ferndown) and our other donators some of whom wish to remain anonymous for their very kind contributions towards our nationals fundraising! So far a whopping total of £4150 (at the time of letter going to print). We have to fundraise almost £10000 to get to nationals so all support with our fundraising would be very much appreciated.

Please continue to share and donate via our GOFUNDME webpage which is <https://www.gofundme.com/leafstudiorockchallenge>

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.

Forthcoming Events

- 04/06/2018
 - **School open to all students**
 - **GCSE and A Level exams continue**
- 22/06/2018
 - **Annual Awards Evening** - further details to follow
- 25/06/2018 – 05/07/2018
 - **Year 9 & 10 End of Year Exams**
- 28/06/2018
 - **Year 11 and Year 13 Prom** - Queens Hotel, Bournemouth
- 06/07/2018
 - **Inset day** - school closed to students
 - **Quiz Night** – teams of up to 8, further details to follow
- 09/07/2018 – 20/07/2018
 - **Year 10 & 12 work experience**
- 13/07/2018
 - **All day Rock Challenge Rehearsal** – Parents invited to watch at 5:30pm, £2 entry
- 14/07/2018
 - **Rock Challenge National Finals – Rotherham**
- 16/07/2018 – 20/07/2018
 - **Year 9 Specialism week (school finishes 3pm all week)**
- 19/07/2018 – 20/07/2018
 - **All day rehearsals for LeAF Summer Showcase (times to be confirmed)**
- 23/07/2018
 - **All day tech rehearsal @ Layard Theatre**
- 24/07/2018 – 25/07/2018
 - **LeAF Summer Showcase @ Layard Theatre**
 - Rehearsal and show times for stage students to be confirmed
- **25/07/2018**
 - **Last day of term** – school finishes at 12:30pm

Many thanks for all your support this half term.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Lapskas
Principal