

20th September 2017

Dear Parent

With the new term now well under way, there is lots of school news I would like to share so grab yourself a cuppa and a comfy chair. Apologies for the lengthy letter but I hope you will understand we have much to share, particularly at the start of a new year.

Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at The Lakes School and I would like to thank our older students for taking time to make them feel welcome. We will soon be sharing our examinations headlines from the summer results days which once again show how we are making great strides as a school. Most notably, 100% of our Year 11 students have gone on to further study, an apprenticeship or employment with training which is a great advert for the way we prepare students for the next stage of their lives. Similarly, our Sixth Form leavers have moved on to their first-choice destinations at university, college, apprenticeship and a range of other exciting options including the armed forces and traveling. A huge well done to all of our students who sat examinations this summer; we are very proud of you all.

Letters on our Website

Last year, our Parent Forum asked if we could create space on our website for letters to be uploaded. I am pleased to say that we have worked with our website designer to add an archive of letters which can be found in our Links menu or by clicking [here](#).

Security Fence

You may have noticed that our new security fence is almost installed and we are excited about the improvements this will bring to keeping our school community safe. The new fence will also help us better manage student attendance and punctuality and I would like to encourage all parents to read through the attendance and punctuality letter attached.

Free School Meals and Clothing Vouchers

During the summer, Cumbria County Council sent out information to parents about free school meals and clothing vouchers. They have been inundated with applications and have asked schools to remind parents that the eligibility criteria must be met as delays have been caused to processing applications because of a large number of applications from people who are not eligible. Please follow the link below to check your eligibility and to make an application.

https://emsonline.cumbria.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2fCitizenPortal_LIVE

Term Dates 2017-2020

Our Parent Forum have previously asked if we can publish our term dates further in advance and I am pleased to say that we are now in a position to respond to this request. Please find below a list of our term dates from 2017 to 2020.

We will be in touch soon regarding our Parent Forum date for the autumn term and we would encourage you to follow our [Facebook page](#) to keep up to date with all of our latest news.

Yours sincerely



Andy Cunningham
Headteacher

The Lakes School Term Dates 2017-2020

Term Dates 2017-2018		
Half Term	Term Begins	Term Ends at 3.10pm on
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 6 th September 2017	Thursday 19 th October 2017
Autumn Term 2	Monday 30 th October 2017	Tuesday 19 th December 2017
Spring Term 1	Wednesday 3 rd January 2018	Friday 9 th February 2018
Spring Term 2	Monday 19 th February 2018	Thursday 29 th March 2018
Summer Term 1	Monday 16 th April 2018	Friday 25 th May 2018
Summer Term 2	Monday 4 th June 2018	Friday 20 th July 2018

Staff Training Day 1	Monday 4 th September 2017
Staff Training Day 2	Tuesday 5 th September 2017
Staff Training Day 3	Friday 20 th October 2017
Staff Training Day 4	These will be taken as twilight sessions throughout the year
Staff Training Day 5	

Term Dates 2018-2019		
Half Term	Term Begins on	Term Ends at 3.10pm on
Autumn Term 1	Tuesday 4 th September 2018	Thursday 18 th October 2018
Autumn Term 2	Monday 29 th October 2018	Friday 21 st December 2018
Spring Term 1	Monday 7 th January 2019	Friday 15 th February 2019
Spring Term 2	Monday 25 th February 2019	Friday 29 th March 2019
Summer Term 1	Monday 15 th April 2019	Friday 24 th May 2019
Easter Weekend	Good Friday 19 th April 2019	Easter Monday 22 nd April 2019
Summer Term 2	Monday 3 rd June 2019	Friday 19 th July 2019

Staff Training Day Arrangements		
Staff Training Day 1	Monday 3 rd September 2018	Suggested CCC Date
Staff Training Day 2	Friday 19 th October 2018	School Day reclaimed 7 th January
Staff Training Day 3	These will be taken as 2½ Hour twilight sessions	2 x February for Mid-Year Reviews
Staff Training Day 4	These training hours will be taken as 2½ hour twilights throughout the year or by extending Monday night DTMeetings until 5pm at planned times of the year.	
Staff Training Day 5		

Term Dates 2019-2020		
Half Term	Term Begins on	Term Ends at 3.10pm on
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 4 th September 2019	Thursday 17 th October 2019
Autumn Term 2	Monday 28 th October 2019	Friday 20 th December 2019
Spring Term 1	Monday 6 th January 2020	Friday 14 th February 2020
Spring Term 2	Monday 24 th February 2020	Friday 27 th March 2020
Easter Weekend	Good Friday 10 th April 2020	Easter Monday 13 th April 2020
Summer Term 1	Tuesday 14 th April 2020	Friday 22 nd May 2020
Summer Term 2	Monday 1 st June 2020	Friday 17 th July 2020

Staff Training Day Arrangements		
Staff Training Day 1	Monday 2 nd September 2019	Suggested CCC Date
Staff Training Day 2	Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Suggested CCC Date
Staff Training Day 3	Friday 18 th October 2019	School Day reclaimed 6 th January 2020
Staff Training Day 4	These will be taken as 2½ Hour twilight sessions throughout the year	2 x February for Mid-Year Reviews
Staff Training Day 5		1x Autumn Term and 1 x Summer Term



Excellence through a caring, learning community

19th September 2017

Dear Parent

Attendance and Punctuality

The Governing Body of The Lakes School would like to request your support in improving attendance and punctuality at the school. You will note from our recent Ofsted inspection report that staff and governors are working incredibly hard to bring about improvements in achievement for all students and we are pleased that this has been recognised in the report. The report is extremely positive about the behaviour of students who demonstrate respectful relationships around the school. One member of the inspection team remarked that we had a lovely school and this was a view that was shared by our students and by yourselves. We very much value your support which has played a significant role in helping us

The school now needs to be judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted at the time of our next inspection and we know that you will do all that you can to work in partnership with staff and governors to secure the very best outcomes for your child. We would like to request your help in improving the school's overall attendance and punctuality figures which currently require improvement.

Since September 2016, staff at The Lakes School have secured marginal improvements in the attendance rates of all groups of students. Had this not been the case, the school would have been rated as 'Inadequate' by Ofsted. We believe that in many respects, The Lakes School is a good school and one that very much provides a caring, learning community for all students.

We need your help to improve whole school attendance and punctuality so that by the time of our next inspection we are not at risk of an 'inadequate' rating by Ofsted. The grade given by Ofsted for attendance is what is known as a 'limiting' judgement i.e. if attendance is graded as inadequate, then so is leadership and management and then so is overall effectiveness and this would be despite the good behaviour of our students, good GCSE and A-Level results, a good Sixth Form and students stating that they feel safe and well-cared for.

How can you help?

We would like to respectfully ask all parents to help us to secure a judgement of 'Good' at the time of our next inspection by taking two specific actions in relation to attendance and punctuality

1. Avoid taking your child or children out of school for holidays
2. Ensure that your child or children arrive at school in good time so that they are outside their tutor group room ready to be registered by 8.45am

Collectively, our students have missed 700 days of school due to holidays since September 2016 and we know this has a significant impact on a number of areas of a child's development. A child's absence from school impacts on a number of areas not limited to academic achievement, social development, friendships, feelings of isolation and lack of connectivity with peers and school life. Absence from school also has a significant impact on lessons as students often find they need to catch up and may feel as though the rest of their classes are further on with their learning.

Punctuality

You may have noticed that our fencing is nearing completion and this will help to improve some of our routines. It will also help us monitor punctuality more effectively and ensure that students are arriving at tutor time and lessons in a timely manner. As a reminder, Tutor Time begins at 8.45am



and any student who is not present is marked as late. We would like to thank the vast majority of students who consistently arrive at school on time ready to learn.

Please find below our revised arrangements for monitoring and improving student punctuality. Whilst these arrangements might seem quite 'blunt' we are aware that the vast majority of students arrive at school on time and will therefore not be affected.

Arriving at School

1. At 8.40am, the external entrance gates will be closed outside the dining area and at the car park next to the technology department.
2. All students should be in the school before 8.40am to ensure that they arrive at Tutor Time at 8.45am.
3. Students who have not arrived in school before the gates are closed will need to enter school through reception.
4. Our attendance staff will greet students who are late and will issue a detention for the same day which will take place at break time, lunchtime or after school. The length of the detention will be the number of minutes late multiplied by three.
5. Students who are persistently late present the same safeguarding concern as those students with persistent absence. A referral may therefore be made by the school to the Cumbria County Council Inclusion Team.

We recognise that for some students the arrangements above may require some adjustment to their morning routines. With this in mind, we will issue detentions for lateness from Monday 2nd October 2017. Prior to this date, we will speak to students who are late and remind them of the new arrangements but not issue any detentions.

Leaving School During the Day

1. Your child may have an important reason for leaving school during the school day such as a medical appointment, although we would ask that wherever possible such appointments are made for after the end of the school day.
2. The system for leaving the school for such a reason remains the same in that parents should notify the school in advance and your child should sign out and wait at reception for you to collect them.
3. This system ensures that we can keep your child safe.

Leaving School at the End of the Day

1. The school gates near the dining area will be opened at 3.00pm.
2. Students will be able to leave the school site at 3.10pm via reception, the dining area, technology department or by walking up the side of the school buildings from the Maths and Art blocks.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your support in helping us achieve our ambition of becoming an outstanding school where we do everything we can to support and care for your child so that they can achieve their potential.

Yours sincerely



Andy Cunningham
Headteacher



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