

17th July 2017

Dear Year 6 Parent

I'm sure you feel that time has gone by in a flash since your child started primary school and no doubt Year 6 has flown by for yourself and your child. With the move to Year 7 on the horizon, I thought you would like to read about some of our latest news which we have recently sent to our current parents. Typically, we keep the community up to date with the life of The Lakes School through our Facebook page but I like to write parents periodically. Below, you will find some snippets from my end of term letter along with a reminder of our term dates. In response to parent requests, we have also included an overview of the equipment that your child will need so that they can make a great start to Year 7.

Tea and Coffee Morning for New Parents

We would like to invite you to spend some time with staff and other parents on your child's first day at The Lakes School on Wednesday 6th September 2017 from 8.30-10.00am. A perfect way to spend your morning after dropping your child off at school. Simply pop along to our dining area and we will welcome you with tea, coffee and croissants. We look forward to welcoming you.

Chicago...and All That Jazz

I think you will agree that the world is in good hands if The Lakes School is sending out students with that much sass! I'm sure you would join me in saying a huge thank you to Mr Theobald and Lakes School Productions who have once again provided a wonderful treat for the community with a truly first class run of Chicago. Naturally, the entire cast were sorry to reach the end of the final performance and it won't surprise you that Mr Theobald was soon thinking about the next show. I'd like to take a moment to thank an amazing group of people who are very dear to the hearts of all of us here at The Lakes School. They help us in so many ways and they do so as volunteers. To The Lakes Players, we love you dearly and thank you yet again for supporting the school.

Site Security

You may remember from our Ofsted inspection in May 2017 that the inspection team were very complimentary about our safeguarding procedures from recruitment right through to how we help students keep themselves safe. We have a very open site at The Lakes School and this presents a certain level of risk. The inspection team were pleased to see that we had very strong plans in place to address our open site and I am pleased to inform all members of the community that, by the time you return on 6th September 2017, you should find a school that is even safer for children following the installation of security fencing.

The fencing has been sensitively considered to ensure that there is a perfect balance between achieving a more secure site and enabling students to still feel that they have freedom of movement around the site. Once planning permission has been secured, work should begin during the summer holiday.

Alongside much improved site security, there are also many other benefits to the installation of fencing. For example, we will be better able to manage attendance and punctuality as the reception area will become the single point of entry and exit between the hours of 8.40am and 3.10pm. Also, during their social time, students will no longer mix with traffic at the front of the school which will reduce dramatically the risk of an accident occurring. We look forward to our more secure new-look site in September.

PE Kit

We are very excited to announce the arrival of our new PE kit, specifically a new rugby top, which features a rather stylish purple panel on either side. There is no expectation that parents will purchase the new PE kit until your child has grown out of their current kit. When the time comes, we would encourage you to contact Coniston Corporate, our uniform suppliers, from whom you will be able to purchase the relevant items. Order forms are available from reception and there is also an online shop available here; [Coniston Corporate](#).

Mathematics

In order for you to support your child with their mathematics throughout their time at The Lakes School please could you ensure that arrive in September equipped with a pen, pencil, ruler, calculator, protractor and a set of compasses for their Maths lessons. The Maths department sell equipment bags containing 2 black pens, 2 pencils, 15cm ruler, protractor, compasses, rubber and pencil sharpener for £1.50. Currently students are also able to exchange merits for maths equipment at the office. If you are buying a calculator for your child the Maths department recommend the Casio fx-83GT PLUS or Casio fx-85GT PLUS. We are ordering some calculators in to the department for September.

Sleep Research

Our Year 9 students supported some academic sleep research which was led by the psychology teams at University of Lancaster and Cumbria. This research focussed on the link between sleep patterns and alertness. Whilst some of the more complex eye-tracker data is still being analysed, I am able to share with you the early findings which was supported by 75 of our Year 9 students.

- Our Year 9 students reported sleeping on average 8 hours on school nights.
- Greater daytime sleepiness on school days was related to later weekend bedtimes and longer lie-ins at the weekend.
- The use of electronic devices in bed just before sleep was related to greater daytime sleepiness on school days.
- Girls who had higher daytime sleepiness on school days reported feeling more powerful and popular than other girls, but also reported feeling more emotionally angry, and also felt they were worse academically.
- Boys with higher sleepiness on school days reported feeling less sporty than other boys.

Earlier in the year, our Parent Forum requested advice on sleep recommendations for children and we are pleased to have been able to engage in this research. Once the final analysis has been completed we will share the findings with parents. In the meantime, here are some useful websites regarding sleep in the adolescent years;

The Children's Sleep Charity

<http://www.thechildrenssleepcharity.org.uk>

The British Sleep Society

<https://www.sleepsociety.org.uk>

NHS Choices

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Childrenssleep/Pages/howmuchsleep.aspx>

The National Sleep Foundation

<https://sleep.org/articles/ways-technology-affects-sleep/>

Polite Reminder

The school's uniform expectations state that students are not allowed to wear earrings. We would ask that all parents support the school with this by ensuring that any ear piercing is completed at the start of the summer holiday so that earrings can be removed when your child starts the new term in September.

Details of our uniform expectations can be found on our website along with a useful guide to suitable footwear. We would ask that parents check this guide carefully to ensure that your child's shoes match our expectations. We would also politely remind parents that black jeggings or jeans are not acceptable trousers and are not part of our school uniform. Students who fail to respond positively to our uniform expectations may not be able to access the curriculum until uniform and appearance issues are resolved. Thank you for supporting the expectations of The Lakes School.

In closing, may I wish you a relaxing summer break and thank you once again for supporting our work at The Lakes School. Our partnership with parents is so important and we look forward to strengthening it further in the years to come.

Kind regards



Andy Cunningham
Headteacher



Ref:ACu/DBe
1st February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Lakes School Term Dates

I am pleased to write to you with confirmation of the school term dates for the academic year 2017-2018.

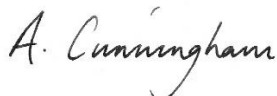
Just to give you advanced notice, the term dates we have published for 2017-2018 include some minor changes to the dates suggested by Cumbria County Council. Whilst we do not have to use these dates, we always try to stick as closely to them as we can. However, sometimes it is necessary to make some minor alterations to accommodate our staff training days.

Regarding the minor alterations, I would like to draw your attention to the end of the autumn term which is set at Tuesday 19th December 2017. This is slightly later than the Cumbria published date. Interestingly, in 2018, the autumn term finishes on 21st December; something which hasn't happened for a number of years. We will send out the 2018-2019 dates in the near future.

Another date for you to note is that all students will return to school on Wednesday 3rd January 2018.

I hope this information helps with your plans for the coming year. Do please get in touch if you would like any further information about our term dates.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Cunningham
Headteacher

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	



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