



# PARENT NEWSLETTER

It really is wonderful to be writing to you at this point in the year with the positive news that we will be able to welcome back all of our students in September 2020 for the start of the autumn term and the new academic year. There is much to cover in this newsletter but we would like to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to everyone in The Lakes School community for your kind words of support since schools closed in March 2020. It is true to say that your emails and letters of support have been priceless during this time and we very much look forward to September when we welcome the return of all of our students and the return of life at our busy school.

## We have every reason to be positive

Every year, Mr Cunningham invites Year 6 children to write to him as they approach their transition to The Lakes School and he has once again been overwhelmed by a large number of handwritten letters. Each letter capturing a huge sense of excitement and expectation about starting life at The Lakes School and this is hugely reassuring. The Year 6 page on our website has been updated this summer and we have received a flurry of applications for our Lakes School Badges from students of all ages and many Year 6 children have completed our Year 6 Survey via a link on this webpage.

In addition, our student survey in June 2020 further captured the positivity amongst our students about returning to school in September. 259 students responded to our survey. 86% said that they were missing school and 96% said that they had someone they could speak to if they were feeling unhappy. 87% said that they had been taking part in regular exercise and 94% said that they had been able to stay in contact with their friends during the lockdown. 97% said that they were happy and had no concerns that they would like to talk about and 99% of students responding said that they couldn't wait to return to school in September or knew they would be ok even though they had some worries. Finally, 76% of students responding said that they would just like to get back to their normal lessons alongside attending clubs and seeing their friends and teachers. Every reason for us to be positive about returning to school in September.

## What will school be like in September?

As far as possible, returning to school in September will be extremely familiar to all of our students. Our caring, learning community - the foundation of our school - is still very much at the heart of what we do and our inspiring, challenging and empowering curriculum will continue to drive all that we offer to our students. Students will access their normal lessons with specialist teachers in specialist teaching rooms and we believe that this recipe is vital to ensure that all students start the year with a sense of purpose about their learning. In line with the government guidance, students will be wearing normal school uniform and the general life of the school will continue as extra curricular clubs begin to return throughout September and October.

However, some things will change for September in line with the guidance set out by the government. There are a number of things we need to have in place to ensure as far as possible that the school limits the possibility of virus transfer amongst staff and students. Whilst it is not possible to completely eradicate the possibility that the virus might transfer amongst staff and students, we take our responsibilities in this regard extremely seriously and this newsletter sets out the steps the school is taking to respond to the guidance from the government and prepare The Lakes School for the return of all students in September.

Whilst we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter about our plans for September, we are all well aware of the speed with which things can change regarding the virus so we will keep you up to date over the summer break should our plans need to be altered. For now, sit back with a cuppa and take a few moments to read all about our plans for September.

### Curriculum

We know that our students are keen to return to the broad and balanced curriculum we offer at The Lakes School. Students will return to their normal timetables across their full range of subjects.

Within each subject, teachers have planned to make some adjustments to the curriculum. Our curriculum will continue to respond to national developments to ensure that all students are well prepared for exams, assessments and the next phase of their education.

Please click [HERE](#) if you would like to access the curriculum page of our website.

### Teaching & Learning

Teachers will be working hard to help students build up their confidence quickly as they return to the classroom.

We know that our students are keen to return to the routine and the buzz of learning in school so this will be our focus as staff and students return to the classroom.

### Assessment

Teachers assess student progress all of the time. When done well, teachers make real-time judgements about a student's progress during live lessons through the answers they verbalise and through the work they complete in their exercise books. This will continue to be true from September as teachers adapt their lessons and their curriculum to meet the needs of all of the students they teach.

You will be pleased to read that we will be steering clear of subjecting our students to a series of tests to assess what they know. We believe that it is important for students to return to the classroom as a place to learn and build confidence and so this will be our priority as we move through September and October.

Last year, we moved to three Assessment Points in the year and you will receive your first AP report about your child in December 2020. We will soon be releasing a Parent Guide to Assessment at The Lakes School.

Please click [HERE](#) if you would like to access the assessment page of our website.

### Support with Learning

Returning to the classroom may seem a little unusual for some students but we are confident that everyone will return to lessons reinvigorated and ready to learn.

Staff at The Lakes School are well versed in identifying gaps in knowledge, skills and understanding and well skilled in building student confidence - particularly with challenging concepts.

A return to the classroom will see teachers take a mix of approaches to revisit prior knowledge and to build new connections offering extra support to students as needed.

### Student Development Team Support

Our Student Development Team encompasses pastoral support and learning support across the whole school. The Lakes School has a strong reputation for supporting all students and this team will continue to work closely with students who may need a little extra support as they return to school.

Please click [HERE](#) if you would like to access the learning support page of our website.

### Emotional Health

The school works hard to consider the impact of its work on the emotional health of students and staff. We have a dedicated team of pastoral managers in place who are very well connected to a range of services in the community and across Cumbria. Miss Evans and Mr Taylor support the work of Form Tutors, class teachers and parents to ensure that we meet the needs of all students.

As students return to school in September, we will continue to provide support and work closely with parents so do please get in touch if you think there is something we should know about your child that would help us to ensure their smooth return to school in September. You can email our pastoral team on [pastoral@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk).

Please click [HERE](#) if you would like to access the emotional health page of our website.

### Year Group Bubbles

As far as possible, we need to organise the school so that each year group is able to operate as a bubble. This means that students within each year group will be able to attend lessons as normal with normal class sizes and they will be able to socialise together before school, during social times and after school.

However, as far as practically possible, it does mean that students will need to avoid mixing with other year groups to limit the possible spread of the virus. This also means that, should the school experience cases of the virus amongst students, it may only be necessary for one year group to quarantine itself in line with advice from Public Health England who would advise the school following any positive tests.

### Travelling to and from School

As far as possible, please encourage your child to mix only with their own year group whilst travelling to and from school. Whilst this might be difficult, it is important that we do everything we can to follow the government guidance which advises students to stay in year group bubbles where possible. Students should walk or cycle to school where possible and it is still of course ok for parents to drop off their children by car.

At the time of writing, we are not able to provide specific details about the arrangements for those travelling by service bus or school bus. We know that the advice encourages students to sit in year groups on buses but we are awaiting further advice about the specific arrangements for students travelling by bus.

We will be in touch with further clarification as soon as we have the details.

### Uniform

In line with the government guidance and school policy on uniform and appearance, all students should return to school in September wearing school uniform.

Please click [HERE](#) to visit the uniform page of our website.

### Assemblies

Whole school assemblies will not take place until the government guidance changes. However, we will be able to continue with year group assemblies. These will be particularly important at the start of term when we work through these arrangements with students.

### Arrival at School

We will begin the autumn term with a one-way system in place; further details are shared in another section of this newsletter.

As far as possible, students are advised to avoid arriving at school too early.

Upon arriving at school, students should enter the school grounds immediately via the gate near the dining area where they will join the one way system.

Students should not walk to the Spar garage as this increases the possibility of virus transfer.

As students walk through the exterior gate near the dining area they will be required to use the hand sanitiser available before making their way immediately to the registration base for their year group.

Students should follow the one-way system which will be in place.

### Registration

Whilst all of our students have been allocated their usual tutor groups, we need to begin the autumn term by registering students as a year group so that we can follow the government guidance about keeping students in year group bubbles. This will need to be in place every day at 8.45am to 9.00am so that students can be registered together as one discrete year group rather than in their normal mixed aged tutor groups.

On a typical day, students will be registered in their year group registration base as set out in the table overleaf.

### One Way System

The one-way system helps us manage social distancing in the school.

A video will be released soon to show how the one-way system operates and full signage will be in place.

## Year Group Arrangements

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
<b>First Day Arrival 02.09.2020</b>	<b>Hall</b> Front left seating  Enter via main school reception and rear hall doors	<b>Hall</b> Tiered Seating  Enter via normal school gate and dining room doors	<b>PAS</b>  Enter via normal school gate, follow one way system to boys PAS entrance	<b>Dining Area</b>  Enter via normal school gate and take a seat in the dining area	<b>Hall</b> Front right seating  Enter via normal school gate then hall fire exit doors near catering room	<b>Hall</b> Front left seating  At <b>11.30am</b> enter via main school reception and rear hall doors
<b>Upon arrival at school on a normal day for registration</b>	<b>Hall</b> Front left seating  Enter via main school reception and rear hall doors	<b>Hall</b> Tiered Seating  Enter via normal school gate and dining room doors	<b>PAS</b>  Enter via normal school gate, follow one way system to boys PAS entrance	<b>Dining Area</b>  Enter via normal school gate and take a seat in the dining area	<b>Hall</b> Tiered Seating  Enter via normal school gate then hall fire exit doors near catering room	Normal Sixth Form Tutor Group Room with your Form Tutor
<b>Dry Day Break and Lunchtime</b>	These arrangements will be finalised in time for the start of term. We are lucky to benefit from a number of large spaces where there is plenty of space for year groups both indoors and outdoors.					
<b>Wet Day Break and Lunchtime</b>	These indoor spaces include the hall, PAS, dining area and the maths and languages area, not to mention our extensive outdoor spaces including the playground, field, MUGA and astroturf. We will ensure that a rota is in place so that each year group is able to access a variety of spaces across a normal week.					

### Breaktime and Lunchtime Zones

This is a very important part of our arrangements as we work to keep each year group separate in line with the government guidance. Students will be expected to follow their year group arrangements until the government guidance changes. Specific year group arrangements can be found in the table above.

Whilst mixed aged tutor groups and social time are common-place at The Lakes School, and a real positive aspect of the way the school is organised, we will need to begin the autumn term as year groups and we thank all of our students for helping us to make this adjustment.

### Hygiene

This is a key aspect of our approach to welcoming back all of our students in September.

Hand sanitiser stations will be placed around the school and students will be encouraged to sanitise regularly as they are arriving at school, travelling around the one way system before social time and lunch and also at the end of the day when leaving school.

At the end of lessons, students will help prepare the classroom for the next class by wiping the table they have been using with an antibacterial wipe that will be provided and then disposed of in a lidded bin.

### Toilets

Toilets will operate normally and we will have a regular cleaning rota in place for all toilets which will ensure that all toilets will be cleaned three times a day.

Students will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds after using the toilet or to use hand sanitiser.

Hand dryers will be decommissioned in line with the guidance and paper towels will be used by students and disposed of in lidded bins.

### Food

Managing the kitchen and the dining area for so many children presents a number of challenges when we need to keep year groups as distanced from each other as possible.

From September, we will not be able to provide a breakfast service or a breaktime service so we would ask that parents provide their children with an appropriate breakfast before leaving home and a healthy snack for breaktime.

**We will be providing a lunchtime service** which will consist mainly of food items that can be eaten 'on-the-go'. The service will be familiar to students as much of our food in recent years has enabled students to purchase food that they can take outside on a sunny day or to a classroom so that they can attend a club.

At the end of lesson 4, class teachers will lead their classes around the one-way system to the dining area to support students lining up in their own class and year group bubbles before students continue to follow the one-way system as they travel to their year group specific indoor or outdoor space according to the weather.

### Leaving School

At the end of the day, students will leave their lessons and join the one-way system which they will follow to the exit near the MUGA. This will be the same arrangement for all students.

By sensibly following the one-way system, students will arrive at the exit via the MUGA in a steady stream before leaving the school site in their normal way.

Hand sanitiser stations will be placed next to the gates near the MUGA where students will be expected to sanitise before leaving the school site to reduce the risk of virus transfer.

### Classroom Approach

Typically, teachers will operate from the front of the classroom in line with the government guidance and students should enter the classroom to be seated as soon as they arrive at the lesson.

As far as possible, teachers are required to maintain a sensible distance between each other and between students to reduce the chances of transferring the virus.

Students will not be able to share resources and so teachers will be carefully managing the use of equipment and we will be relying on students to help us with some of the new routines we need to have in place to reduce the possibility of the virus spreading.

**With this in mind, it is extremely important that students bring their own basic equipment to school as we will not be able to organise spare pens and pencils etc.**

### Remote Learning

Collectively, the staff and students have made great strides with remote learning via Microsoft Teams and the Office 365 suite of applications. The school purchases the license for these applications for all students at The Lakes School and we know that this is well received by parents.

Whilst we are clear about how the school will be able to open to all students in September, it is of course possible that schools may need to close again in the future.

We would like to reassure all parents that we will be swiftly reintroducing our remote learning provision for all students should we have to close at any point in the future.

### My child is showing symptoms - what should I do?

It is extremely important that children are kept at home if they present with the recognised symptoms of Coronavirus.

By doing so, we will be able to reduce the possibility of spreading the virus through the school community.

If your child presents with any of the recognised symptoms you should first follow the government guidance about seeking medical help and advice along with booking a test.

For the latest guidance, please refer to the information shared by the government on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

**Please inform the school promptly if your child presents with any of the recognised symptoms as this will help us to take the necessary steps to reduce the possibility of the virus spreading throughout the school community.**

## A Fond Farewell

It's at this time of year that we find ourselves saying a fond farewell to some of our staff. After many years, we are sorry to be waving goodbye to Mr Ince, Head of Science, and Mr Revell, Head of Computing. Both are long serving members of staff at The Lakes School who retire at the end of the summer. Many of you will have fond memories of being taught by Mr Ince and Mr Revell and I am sure you will join the entire school community in wishing them both a very happy retirement. Although, as you would expect, they will not be sitting still for very long and already have some mini-adventures in the pipeline. You will both be missed.

In addition, we also say a partial farewell to Mrs Munslow who retires from her role as Cover Supervisor. An equally long serving member of staff who has done much to support students and the school over many years. Mrs Munslow will continue her role as Cover Manager and she is looking forward to supporting her Sixth Form students with their plans for September 2021.

We also send our best wishes to Mrs Ortega who leaves us to take up another post teaching languages at a school in the north of England and we thank her for inspiring our students through her teaching of Spanish.

This year, it has been our pleasure to work with a small number of temporary staff who very quickly became part of the furniture at The Lakes School and the time has come for us to say farewell to the following staff: Mr Haworth, Music Teacher, Mrs Owen, Science Teacher, Mr Bosman, Maths Teacher and Mr Charalambides, Business Teacher. We hope that our paths cross again in the future.

Our Year 13 students and many of our Year 11 students also leave us this summer following what can only be described as an unprecedented end to their time at The Lakes School. Your resilience and positivity during this time has been wonderful to see and we look forward to celebrating your results when we see you on results days in August; more information about the arrangements for results days will follow soon.

To everyone who leaves us this summer, we say a heartfelt thank you for all that you have brought to the life of The Lakes School and we wish you every success and happiness for the future.

## A Warm Welcome

It is also the time of year when we warmly welcome new staff who join us at The Lakes School in September. We welcome Miss Knight who joins us as a science and maths teacher and also Mr McAloone who joins us to teach computing and maths. We are also very pleased to share the news that, from September, Dr Rigby will take up the role of subject leader for science and computing.

Finally, we send our very best wishes to Mrs Young and Dr Fitzherbert who will return to The Lakes School later in the year following maternity leave.



## In Closing

Thank you for taking the time to read through the detail of this newsletter. There is so much for us all to think about and we must take a healthy, balanced approach to the return to school in September. We will continue our positive, problem solving approach to all that the autumn term presents and we will endeavour to keep you fully informed about the new arrangements that we may have to put in place for some of our routine events like parents evenings, Year 7 settling in evening, Awards Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening. For now, as we approach the end of the summer term, there is time to say just one more thank you to all of the students and families connected to The Lakes School. The staff and governors will be forever thankful for your support during this challenging time and we look forward to what we hope will be an uninterrupted start to the next academic year.

# WHO CAN I GO TO FOR HELP?

## Parents

You should always try to speak to your parents about any issues you may have

## Form Tutor

Your Form Tutor knows you well and is well placed to help you with any issues or worries you may have

## Friends

Trusted friends are always there for you and will advise you to talk to a suitable adult

### Mr M Taylor

Pastoral Manager



### Miss K Evans

Pastoral Manager



### Mrs R Wadmore

First Aid



### Mrs G Fayers

Reception



### Ms S Rainey

Deputy Headteacher  
Designated Safeguarding Lead 1



### Mr A Cunningham

Headteacher  
Deputy Safeguarding Lead 2



### Mr C Jeremy

Assistant Headteacher  
Safeguarding Lead 3



Caring, Learning Community



Keeping Children Safe



# The Lakes School's Inclusive Curriculum



Our curriculum inspires, challenges and empowers students

## INSPIRES

INTENT

We **inspire** young people to be ambitious, creative and to develop a lifelong love of learning

IMPACT

We will see young people:

- Enquiring
- Investigating
- Experimenting
- Being Inventive
- Being Creative
- Being Engaged
- Being Motivated
- Asking Questions
- Trying New Things
- Showing Commitment
- Making the most of Opportunities

IMPLEMENTATION

We provide a curriculum that is engaging, relevant and rich with a diverse range of experiences

## CHALLENGES

INTENT

We **challenge** young people to achieve the high standards we set for them and encourage them to be proud of their achievements

IMPACT

We will see young people:

- Being Proud
- Working Hard
- Remembering
- Being Tolerant
- Being Respectful
- Showing Integrity
- Showing Resilience
- Overcoming Barriers
- Taking Pride in their Work
- Struggling and Succeeding
- Showing a Good Work Ethic
- Revisiting Work and Improving
- Going out of their Comfort Zone

IMPLEMENTATION

We provide a curriculum that sets high standards, responds to the needs of our students and instills self belief

## EMPOWERS

INTENT

We **empower** young people to become knowledgeable, skilled, independent and socially aware

IMPACT

We will see young people:

- Caring
- Leading
- Being Kind
- Applying Skills
- Communicating
- Being Successful
- Taking Ownership
- Being Independent
- Showing Confidence
- Taking Responsibility
- Applying Knowledge
- Voicing their Opinions
- Expressing Themselves
- Showing Understanding
- Contributing to the Community
- Understanding Links to the World

IMPLEMENTATION

We provide a curriculum that ensures our students learn the knowledge, skills and qualities they need to make a positive contribution to their community