



PARENT NEWSLETTER

It is my pleasure to write to you on the eve of the start to the autumn term and I hope your child is looking forward to returning to school. I previously sent a newsletter to all parents on 9th July 2020 which set out the arrangements we were putting in place for all students to return to school on 2nd September 2020. We have been watching closely the guidance issued to schools and I am pleased to share with you a number of updates to the information we previously released. Please disregard the information in our newsletter of 9th July 2020 which has now been superseded by the information in this newsletter.

Whilst much of our plans for the start of term remain the same, we have made some slight changes. Look out for the purple star which draws your attention to any changes to the previous information we shared. Please take particular note of the Year Group Arrangements table at the top of page 4 as we have made some improvements to the start of the day which minimises movement around the school and the need for larger gatherings of students.

Face Masks

You will have recently seen the Government update regarding face masks which applies to schools in areas where there are local restrictions or a lockdown. Specifically, face masks are to be worn in communal areas and social spaces but only in those schools where there are community restrictions. Currently, there are no local restrictions in our community so Lakes School students will not be required to wear face masks. Currently, masks are only to be worn by those using the school bus.

However, we will continue to monitor the guidance and will inform all parents should the situation change. It would be really helpful if parents could ensure that their child has a plain face mask available at home, just in case we need to introduce the use of face masks at The Lakes School at short notice. Thank you.

Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App: Your child's timetable

The Arbor Parent Portal continues to be a huge asset to the school, particularly at a time when communication with parents is so important. The vast majority of parents use the portal regularly to keep track of their child's life at The Lakes School. We have recently sent out an email to the small number of parents who have not yet registered to use Arbor so if you are not yet signed up, or you are having any difficulties, then do please get in touch via our admin@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk email address. You can find a helpful guide for parents in the letters page on our website. Remember: when logging in to the Arbor Parent Portal for the first time this must be done via a standard computer browser (Chrome is recommended) as a pop up window appears asking you to confirm the date of birth of your child. This pop up does not appear in the browser of a mobile device. Once you have logged on for the first time in this way, you will be able to download the app from your favourite App Store and log in using the same details.

Most importantly, ahead of the start of term, you will be able to view your child's timetable. This is particularly important this year for children in Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and in the Sixth Form as ***we would like everybody in these year groups to go straight to their Lesson 1 classroom at 8:45am on the first day of term which is Wednesday, 2 September 2020.*** Simply take a look at the 'Agenda' view for your child and it will bring up their timetable. Navigate to the first day of term and you should see your child's first lesson. Simply click on Lesson 1, or hover over it with your mouse pointer, and it should show you the name of the teacher and/or location of the lesson. You might like to try the '5-day' view if nothing appears.

Students who are unsure where to go on the first day should make their way to the dining area where Mr Jeremy and Mrs Ingram will be able to help.

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.

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 fine for parents to drop off their children by car, although it would be helpful if parents could make every effort to only transport children from the same house bubble or year group bubble.

School Buses: Please click [here](#) if you would like to view the CCC School Transport Arrangements document from September 2020.

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. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Coniston Corporate for doing everything they can to fulfil uniform orders this summer during difficult times. There may be a slight delay for jumpers so we would like to encourage students to bring a coat for moving around school as some of the one-way system is outdoors. Please click [HERE](#) to visit the uniform page of our website.

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 and are able to move around school to make their way to classes.

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 their Lesson 1 class at 8.45am.

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 in a different way.

Specifically, at 8.45am, students should arrive at their Lesson 1 classroom where their Lesson 1 teacher will take the morning register and share messages before starting Lesson 1.

Further information can be found in the table on page 4.

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.

Parents will shortly receive an email containing a link to the one-way system video.

Year Group Arrangements

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
First Day Arrival 02.09.2020 8.40-8.45am	Hall Front left seating Enter via main school reception and rear hall doors	At 8.40-8.45am, please arrive at your Lesson 1 classroom Your Lesson 1 class teacher will complete your morning registration with key messages before starting your first lesson of the day at 9.30am which will contain important information about the arrangements in place at the school. Sixth Form students who do not have a class Lesson 1 should take a seat in the hall in the front right seats. Please enter the hall using the doors from the dining area. Any new students joining the school , or anyone who is just a little unsure about where to go, should meet Mr Jeremy and Mrs Ingram in the dining area from 8.30am onwards.				
Upon arrival at school on a normal day for registration	At 8.45am, please ensure that you are at your Lesson 1 classroom Your lesson 1 class teacher will complete your morning registration and provide any daily messages before starting your first lesson of the day at 9.00am. Sixth Form students who do not have a class Lesson 1 should remain in the Sixth Form area for registration.					
Dry Day Before School Break and Lunchtime	We are lucky to benefit from a number of large spaces around school where there is plenty of space for year groups to spend time outside. Further details of our social time arrangements can be found in the blue box below.					
Wet Day Before School Break and Lunchtime We will rotate these areas as term progresses	Hall Front Left Seating	Maths Area	Hall Front Right Seating	Dining Area	Hall Tiered Seating	Sixth Form Area

Social Time in School: Before School, Breaktime and Lunchtime

Due to our spacious site, our students will be able to spend time outdoors and will also be able to move around the school sensibly by following the one-way system. Our students will also be able to spend time in classrooms but only by prior arrangement with their teachers. During social time, the following expectations will be in place:

Only spend time with people from your own year group

Socially distance from others at least 1 metre apart

Avoid gathering in large groups

Follow the one-way system at all times when moving around school

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 which is readily available around the school in many locations. 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.

Basic Equipment for School

Teachers will be adapting the curriculum slightly to ensure that resources are only used by certain year groups and are cleaned or quarantined before use by children in other year groups. However, just as with starting the year at any school, it is always helpful for children to bring their own basic equipment which would include pens, pencils, a ruler, pencil crayons or felt tips. In addition, a calculator is a helpful tool in so many lessons. We would also recommend that students bring an A4 folder in which they can transport and store paperwork for lessons and a notepad or notebook is also useful for jotting down ideas. We know that so many students take great pride in assembling their stationery for school so feel free to bring with you any other items that will help you with your studies.

We will be in touch regarding locker arrangements early in September.

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.

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.

PE Kit

On a day when your child has PE, we would like them to come to school in their PE kit as this will reduce the amount of time students will need to spend in the changing rooms. No students have PE on the first day of term but Year 7 have PE on 3rd September and Years 8, 9 and 11 have PE on 4th September. All students will be issued with a paper timetable on the first day of term but please help your child by logging on to the Arbor Parent Portal and viewing their timetable in the 'Agenda' section.

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.

In Closing

I am sure you will agree that it is great to be on the eve of returning to school. Getting to this stage has required a huge amount of work from the staff at The Lakes School and I am sure you would join me in warmly thanking everyone for their positivity and dedication at a time when things seem to be changing on an hourly basis. With this in mind, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to stay up to date with the latest developments and we will keep you informed in a timely manner, as has been our intention since schools closed in March.

As the term begins, please could we ask you to help us minimise the number of in-person visits to the school site. In the interests of minimising the possibility of virus transfer, please could we ask all parents to prioritise contact with the school via telephone to reception or via email to the school admin account. Thank you for your understanding and for your help in this regard.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we hold on our system the most up to date record of your email address and contact numbers so do please email the school admin account if you need to make any amendments to your records. This can also be done via the Arbor Parent Portal which notifies us of a change you have made. We then need to accept the change which safeguards against any unintended changes to your details.

For now, I wish you all the best for a relaxing bank holiday weekend. Thank you for your wonderful support and we look forward to getting back to school!

A. Cunningham



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