



PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER

A very warm welcome to our Year 6 newsletter for all those parents of primary school children who may be considering The Lakes as their child's chosen secondary school in the years ahead. The information in this newsletter should help you find out about life at The Lakes School with some handy website links which will take you directly to the things we think you need to know.

[Click to go to the Year 6 page of our website](#)

Normally, it is during September when we would be welcoming parents and their children to our open day and open evening but you will understand that we are not currently able to welcome visitors to the school due to the risks associated with coronavirus. However, we have a number of things in place which will support you through the process of finding out about The Lakes School.

Most importantly, we would like to keep the personal approach to working with parents at a time when you are making such an important decision about your child's secondary school. With this in mind, you might like to take up our offer of a remote meeting with Mr Cunningham, our Headteacher, or with another member of staff who has specific responsibility for an area of the school such as SEND or pastoral support. You can read more in the blue box below!

We thank you warmly for your interest in The Lakes School which comes at a time when Ofsted have provided us with a resounding endorsement for the strong partnership that exists between governors, staff, parents and students. Care, a desire to listen and calm assurance provide the foundation for the way we support children and families and we very much look forward to welcoming you and your child to The Lakes School in the years to come.



Would you like to arrange a remote meeting?



Whilst our website, newsletters and Facebook page provide a huge amount of detail about life at The Lakes School, it's important that you also have an opportunity to speak to staff about the school.

We recognise that being able to ask questions and find out more information about specific aspects of our school is so important to all parents and we are delighted to be able to offer remote meetings via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

Our Headteacher, Mr Cunningham, will be delighted to meet you remotely to answer your questions and to learn about how The Lakes School can best support your child in the years ahead. You might also like to speak to a specific department, member of staff or governor.

Mrs Bell, Headteacher's PA, will be only too pleased to organise a remote meeting for you so do give her a call on 01539440814 or email on donna.bell@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk.

Student Destinations and Aspirations

Having a Sixth Form at The Lakes School provides a great long term prospect for our students and each year a significant number of our Year 11 students make the transition to Year 12 to study A-Levels. Sixth Form students like the fact that staff know them well and they are also able to access pastoral support from a dedicated team who have also come to know them well over many years.

Our Year 13 students have an excellent reputation for securing a place at their first choice university and we regularly support students through applications to Oxford and Cambridge along with the BMAT process; anything to help our students stand out!

Whilst we are of course proud to support our Year 13 students in to undergraduate study, we are equally proud of our work to support all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students in to college courses and apprenticeships across a wide range of institutions in Cumbria and Lancashire. Click on these links to find out about our options programmes in [Year 8](#), [Year 9](#) and [Year 12](#).



Our Prospectus

Click [here](#) to view our online prospectus which provides a handy overview of life at The Lakes School.

Social Media

One of the best ways to find out about life at The Lakes School is through our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. Both provide a wonderful insight to student life. Scroll through the news on our Facebook page and watch videos of fond memories captured on our YouTube channel.

Our students cement so many vivid memories during their time at The Lakes School; memories of adventure, achievement and friendship. Follow the links below and take a peek!

[Facebook Page](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

Ofsted: Graded good in all areas

Ofsted inspectors visited The Lakes School in November 2019 and we were so very pleased that they judged our school to be good in all areas. Inspectors recognised our strengths in so many areas including leadership at all levels including governance, safety, curriculum, student achievement, behaviour, personal development and the support we provide to meet the learning and pastoral needs of all of our students. Inspectors also recognised the fantastic contribution that our Sixth Form students make to the life of the school.

Whilst we were graded good in all areas, you will be pleased to know that we continue to make improvements at The Lakes School and this comes from listening carefully to our community and making decisions that are in the best interests of our students, parents and staff.

Click [here](#) if you would like to visit the Ofsted page of our website.

School report



Inspection of The Lakes School

Troutbeck Bridge, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1HW

Inspection dates: 19–20 November 2019

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Good
Personal development	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Sixth-form provision	Good
Overall effectiveness at previous inspection	Requires improvement

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED WITH LIFE AT THE LAKES SCHOOL?

We like our students to know that they attend a school where they can 'make things happen' and we want parents and members of The Lakes School community to feel exactly the same. We are fortunate to enjoy excellent relationships with parents and the community and encourage you to contact school reception if you are interested in joining one of the three groups below; read on to find a group that matches your interests.

The Parent Forum

Formed in 2016, The Parent Forum meets three times a year and has been instrumental in supporting school improvement at The Lakes School.

Attended by parents, governors and our headteacher Mr Cunningham, Parent Forum meetings typically take place on a Monday evening between 5.30pm and 7.30pm with refreshments provided.

Meetings provide a great place for parents to share their ideas about how the school can improve its service to parents and students.

Typically, we discuss ideas in small groups and spend time problem solving together. Each meeting leads to actions for governors and the headteacher. Meetings are rooted in honesty, openness and respect where everyone's voice is heard.

Check out the Parent Forum page on our school website to find out what we have achieved over the years.

The Lakes School Community Partnership

Formed in 2019, the LSCP is a charitable trust entirely focussed on connecting The Lakes School with its community.

Parents and members of the community make up the core membership of the trust.

Covering a wide range of skills, Trust members work closely with grant providers and members of the local community to secure funding which is used to enrich the curriculum offer for students at The Lakes School.

The LSCP also organise fundraising events that help to secure match funding - this is essential when applying for grants.

The LSCP work closely with staff at the school to direct any funding towards the purchase of equipment or resources and to the running of school events. This is a great group to join if you enjoy putting ideas in to action!

The Governing Body

The Governing Body is responsible for the strategic leadership and direction of the school.

The full governing body and sub-committees meet approximately 15 times during the year to provide challenge and support to the headteacher and the wider staff.

Members of the governing body are drawn from all sectors of the local community and bring a wide range of skills and abilities to the team. This ensures that meetings focus sharply on the core business of the school: staffing, teaching and learning, finance and resources, and community, communications and marketing.

Members of the governing body regularly access training to support them in their role. Meetings take the form of discussions, group work and generating ideas to keep the school moving forward. We welcome expressions of interest from anyone who can add skills to our team.

Trust, openness and respect underpin our work with all members of The Lakes School community.

Combined, these principles shape the way we all work together through the Parent Forum, the Lakes School Community Partnership and the Governing Body. It is only in this atmosphere of trust, openness and respect that we can talk about strengths and areas for improvement and truly identify opportunities to improve the school for students, parents and staff.

If you are thinking about getting involved with life at The Lakes School then these principles should also provide you with reassurance that your views and ideas will be valued and welcomed.



'Becoming a Lakes School governor has been an incredibly rewarding experience. The role challenges me, provides me with an opportunity to develop and learn new skills, all whilst supporting the school as it grows from strength to strength.'

*Hannah Irwin
Governor at The Lakes School*

'Participating in the governance of this extremely important asset within our community provides opportunity to ensure that the quality of the education provided is sustained, enhanced and responsive to the diverse needs of our students with the objective of achieving the best of outcomes for all.'

*Bill Smith
Governor at The Lakes School*

'Schools are an important part of local communities. Being a governor at The Lakes School has given me the opportunity to help the school along on their journey of continual improvement, providing the young people in our community with the quality of education that they deserve.'

*Sarah McGraw
Governor at The Lakes School*

We believe strongly that children should be rewarded

All staff at The Lakes School are encouraged to look out for students who are meeting our high expectations so that they can award merits. Merits translate in to Amazon vouchers which can be spent at the school shop. We love rewarding students and hearing stories of how our students have used their rewards as presents for family members! We have also recently awarded our first Lakes School Badges. Alongside our celebration assemblies, annual awards evening and so much more, our students have every reason to enjoy coming to school.



Earn Amazon gift vouchers by collecting merits. You could earn £75 worth in one year!



The Lakes School: Student Development Team Provision

Academic Development

English & Maths

Rationale

Unlocking the mystery of English and Maths and building the foundations of sound Literacy and Numeracy will help children with learning needs succeed in all areas of the curriculum and prepare them for a future career.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop their skills and confidence in English and Maths through a personalised curriculum.

The focus for this programme is to help children reach age related expectations.

Specific Activities

Passport Maths
Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs Questions

Target Group

Children who need to develop the building blocks of English and Maths so that they can confidently work in mainstream classes.

Pupil Premium

Rationale

Pupil Premium students

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, support will be tailored to the needs of PP students in line with barriers identified.

Specific Activities

Aspirations Support
Attitude to Learning Support
Support for families

Target Group

Pupil Premium Students

Personal Development

Social & Emotional

Rationale

Socialising, striking up conversation, managing emotions, learning to feel comfortable in difficult situations and learning social etiquette are often key areas for development for children with learning needs.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will gain confidence in social situations and develop emotional intelligence through working as part of a team and taking on leadership roles and responsibilities.

Specific Activities

Group Tasks
Sports Leadership

Target Group

Children who need to develop their communication skills and emotional intelligence so that they can forge positive relationships with others.

Life Skills

Rationale

To develop the skills needed to be independent in the future.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop their life skills.

Specific Activities

Management of money
Independent journeys
Personal Hygiene

Target Group

Children who need to develop the skills needed to run a home and manage themselves and their family.

Confidence & Resilience

Rationale

Feeling confident and secure in your own abilities and being able to work through challenging tasks or difficult situations are often key areas for development for children with learning needs.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop confidence and resilience through experiences in the natural environment.

Specific Activities

Outdoor Journeys
Walking
Canoeing
Climbing
Route Planning
Gardening
Environmental Work

Target Group

Children who need to feel good about themselves so that they can tackle life's challenges and see positives in learning from mistakes.

Attendance

Rationale

Children with poor attendance.

Curriculum

This programme covers a wide range of procedures which feature in our attendance policy.

Specific Activities

Support meetings with staff
Rewards
Use of County Inclusion Team

Target Group

Children with less than 90% attendance
Persistent Absentees
Children with high absence due to illness

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