



PARENT NEWSLETTER

At a time when we face so many challenges, there are so many things at The Lakes School to warm the heart. We continue to receive so many lovely messages from parents about the quality of the remote learning and the support that staff are providing for children. We have received generous donations of laptops and desktop computers from the community including current parents, previous students and also from Lakeland thanks to the generosity of Mr Sam Rayner and the team. We were also overwhelmed to receive a donation of £600 to fund laptops for students from a lady whose children attended The Lakes School many years ago. Such kindness has helped us to support students and families at a time when access to the internet is so important.

A wise team of current and ex-Sixth Form students have contributed to '**A Collection of Wisdom**' which brings together a wonderful collection of inspiring messages from Lakes School students.

We have continued to develop our remote learning provision and have recently released our **Digital Learning** webpage which aims to support students and parents whilst working from home.

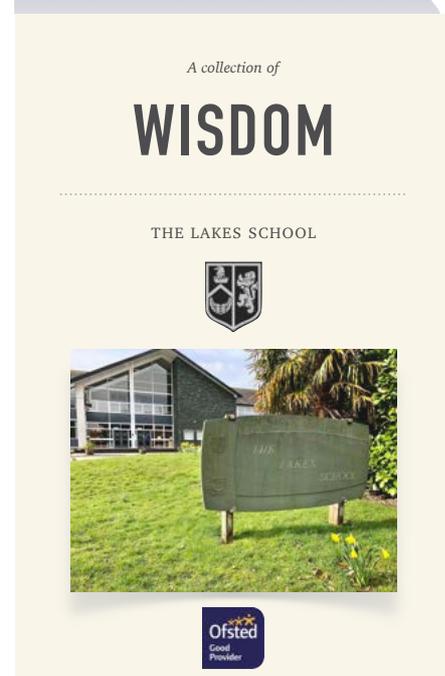
Our Sixth Form students are receiving offers from universities and 45 of our current Year 11 students are set to join The Lakes School Sixth Form in September. Fantastic news all round!

And, on top of all this, the site management team have been working hard to rejuvenate some tired areas of the school with new paintwork in corridors, classrooms and the dining room alongside the addition of new plants which are all ready to spring in to life as we approach the summer term. Life at The Lakes School is still busy preparing for when we can all return.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents. During this period of remote learning, you have helped to further strengthen the partnership between yourselves and the school. You have kept in contact with your child's teachers and their form tutor and you've let us know when your child might need a little support or a bit of space so that they can take a break or get on top of school work. Children and adults need their own unique recipe at the moment and we are very proud to play such a key role in supporting all of the families connected to The Lakes School.

Do please continue to encourage your child to communicate regularly with their class teachers and their form tutor as most difficulties can be resolved just through a conversation via email or the chat facility in Microsoft Teams. Our Student Development Team are also on hand to support students with their pastoral or learning needs.

During this lockdown, it is pleasing to hear that so many Lakes School students are finding a rhythm to their remote learning. Our curriculum is broad and balanced, it provides time for the pursuit of academic excellence alongside space for creative, practical and spiritual pursuits. It really is important for students to replicate this balance at home as best as they can. Thank you for your continued support and we hope you enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter.



When will students return to school?

Unfortunately, we do not know when students will begin to return to The Lakes School. The Prime Minister has indicated that 8th March 2021 may be a date when some children will return to schools but this is dependent on so many factors which relate to the progress of the virus. Schools are likely to find out when children can return at the same time as the general public and all we can do is reassure all Lakes School parents that we continue to respond to the latest guidance for schools and we will take a pragmatic approach to safely welcoming back our students.

Will Lateral Flow Tests be in place when my child returns?

The guidance about Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) in schools is changed regularly but we are currently planning to carry out LFTs in line with the national guidance. Through our previous survey, we know that the majority of parents would want their child to take a LFT upon returning to school. It is generally accepted that LFTs are not as accurate as PCR tests but they do have a role to play in identifying people with a high viral load and so the effort of setting up LFTs in a school is outweighed by the benefit to the school and the community of identifying positive cases who may well be asymptomatic. We will keep you up to date as we receive further information about when students can return to The Lakes School.

Timely Communication: A Home-School Partnership

Timely communication between school and home is a key strength of the partnership we have with families and, as mentioned earlier, we have very much welcomed updates from parents about how your children are managing during this period of remote learning. Teachers continue to work hard to plan engaging and purposeful learning activities for students that cover our normal curriculum as far as possible. Teachers will also be using the functionality we have in Arbor to provide timely updates to parents about the work being covered in lessons which has already led to many parents sending warm thank you messages to so many staff.

For everyone's benefit, it really is important for the school to achieve a balance with regard to timely communications. Teachers will want to keep parents up to date with their child's progress whilst at the same time being mindful that, as parents, you are also busy and you need to receive communications from school in a manageable way.

We thank you for your understanding that, at times, you may receive a number of messages in quick succession from your child's teachers and then, at other times, a few weeks may go by before you receive an update. During the course of a term, you should get a sense of how well your child is doing across their subjects and we would always encourage parents to get in touch via our admin@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk email address should you require any specific information about how well your child is doing in a specific area of their learning.

Take advantage of this time of working remotely, and having to be self motivated at home to get work done as it prepares you well for becoming an A-Level student or going to college.

The experience of going through the first lockdown in Year 12 certainly improved my abilities to learn independently and also taught me to reach out to teachers when I was struggling to understand something.

Lisa Morton, Head Girl



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



Miss K Evans
Pastoral Manager



Mr M Taylor
Pastoral Manager



Miss J North
First Aider



Mrs G Fayers
Receptionist

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



**Excellence in a caring, learning
community**



Keeping children safe

HELP IS AT HAND...



kickitout.org
Tackling racism



mind.org.uk
For better mental health



stonewall.org.uk
Acceptance without exception



themix.org.uk
Support for under 25's



gendertrust.org.uk
Gender identity



nspcc.org.uk



ditchthelabel.org
Your world. Prejudice free



lgbt.foundation
Advice, support & info



youngminds.org.uk
Mental health and wellbeing



barnardos.org.uk
Tackling racism



kooth.com
Online support for young people



childline.org.uk
Online, on the phone, anytime

YOU ARE NOT ALONE