

24 March 2021

Dear Parent,

Now that we have completed nine days of lateral flow device testing, this would seem like a great opportunity to re-establish the routines we have in place in the school so that we can all quickly return to the expectations that help the school run smoothly. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the staff at The Lakes School for calmly working through the first two weeks back - returning students to classrooms whilst at the same time managing to test 1226 students over nine days, which has been an incredible feat. I would also like to thank our students who returned for their second and third tests which shows that you all really are prioritising the health and well-being of everyone in the community. Once again, this has been a huge collective effort by everybody connected with The Lakes School and another example of how everyone's calm assurance continues to help us approach any of the challenges we face. You will be pleased to know that every one of the 1226 tests was negative.

We are very fortunate at The Lakes School. We enjoy a gentle atmosphere around the school building, and we know that the vast majority of our students display the kind of behaviours in school and out in the community that make them true ambassadors. The two-week period of lateral flow tests has made the return to school a little confusing for some and so what follows is a series of quick reminders for parents and students.

Latest school arrival time is 8:40am

All students must be inside the green pedestrian gate before 8:40am on a normal school day. The green gates are closed at 8:40am and so any child who arrives after this time is considered late for school.

Our morning registration period starts at 8:45am and our students need to be outside their registration room (currently their lesson one classroom) to ensure that the teacher can start the morning promptly. Students who arrive at school after 8:40am will need to enter the school via main reception and will be issued with a late detention. Persistent lateness is a significant safeguarding problem and we will continue to contact the parents of children who are persistently late for school in line with our duty to safeguard all students. Thank you to all of our parents for ensuring that your child arrives at school in a timely manner.

Uniform

The school expectations regarding uniform and appearance are clearly set out on our website. Parents who choose to send their children to The Lakes School do so in the knowledge that they are also subscribing to the wider expectations of the school which includes uniform and appearance. Thank you to all parents for ensuring that your child arrives at school wearing the correct uniform each day.

Since we returned to school on 8 March 2021, we have noticed a small number of students wearing skirts which are too short and these are not appropriate for school. We have also noticed students wearing necklaces and earrings which are not part of the school's uniform and appearance policy. Also of note are a small number of students who have returned to school wearing trainers and tight jeans or leggings which are not part of the school uniform and appearance policy. Girls are allowed to wear trousers, or a skirt which is below knee

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length, and boys are allowed to wear trousers, but this does not extend to jeans or other tightfitting garments.

We would much rather speak to parents and our students about more positive aspects of the school than uniform and appearance and so would encourage parents to enter into a dialogue with the school should you need a few days grace to source new footwear or uniform for your child.

Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives at school in the correct uniform and follows our expectations regarding appearance.

Broadfield Close Private Road

Broadfield residents are our closest neighbours in Troutbeck Bridge and it is important that we extend every courtesy and consideration to them. This includes being respectful to the fact that Broadfield Close itself is a private drive and not for public use in a vehicle, on a bicycle or on foot. The Broadfield Close private road is not a general public access route to and from the Spar Garage or the A591.

Recently, an unidentified vehicle drove far too quickly up this narrow private road and intimidated a resident. This is not acceptable, and it is not behaviour that the school or local residents should have to tolerate. On behalf of the Broadfield Close residents, I would like to politely remind all parents who come on to site in a car that the Broadfield Close private road should not be used and the acceptable route to and from The Lakes School is via the main road which runs from the A591 down to our school gates and roundabout.

The Spar Garage

There should be no need for any of our students to go to the Spar garage first thing in the morning or after school. The school provides a breakfast service from 8:00am until 8:35 am and also a lunch service when students are able to purchase food in school.

Since we have returned to school after the lockdown, we have been aware that groups of more than 15 of our students have been going into the Spar which exceeds the number of customers that the shop staff are allowed to accommodate. Furthermore, very few of these students are actually purchasing anything from the shop and are instead therefore making the Spar garage congested so that normal customers are finding it difficult to purchase fuel and then get on with their day.

Please could we ask parents to impress upon your child that the Spar garage should be avoided and any food or drinks that your child needs can be purchased in school or well in advance. Our kitchen staff are fantastic at providing food to suit students who may have particular dietary requirements and so if your child feels unable to purchase food from our canteen then do please get in touch and I am sure that this is a problem we can solve so that your child does not need to purchase items from the Spar garage.

Another issue with using the Spar garage is that students then take the opportunity to walk down Broadfield which is a private road and should not be used as a shortcut. In addition, the Spar garage is a petrol station, the forecourt is an extremely dangerous place to be and is not a sensible diversion before or after school.

Students phoning home during the school day



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In recent years, The Lakes School has developed what we consider to be a healthy approach to the management of mobile phones in school. Our expectations recognises that students use their mobile phones for a range of tasks and, where a teacher deems it appropriate, they are often a very useful resource in classrooms to aid learning.

Generally speaking, we see students using their mobile phones in a very healthy way around school but it is not appropriate for students to make phone calls – particularly calls to parents. We know how upsetting it can be for parents to receive a phone call from their child during the normal school day and it is important for us to clarify that it is not appropriate for a child to call home from their mobile phone.

Should a child need to make a call home then they can speak to a member of staff who will provide support and assist in making the call home should it be deemed necessary.

Sometimes, students do become upset and it is important that they are encouraged to speak to trusted adults in school. A child's first reaction should not be to call a parent from their mobile device as this often sets in motion a course of events that then becomes very difficult to manage.

Using a mobile phone in school is a privilege that we extend to students because we need to be able to trust students to use such devices sensibly. However, students who cannot use their mobile phone sensibly will be required to leave it at reception for the day and will not be allowed to use it in school.

Thank you for ensuring that your child follows these expectations around mobile phone use.

Assessment Point 2

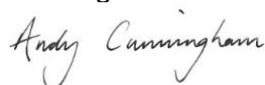
Before the Easter break, you will receive your child's second report of this academic year. Despite the spring lockdown, we felt strongly that you should receive an up-to-date report about your child's current working at grade and their attitude to learning. As always, your child's report may spark an important dialogue between yourselves as parents, your child and your child's teachers. This is a dialogue that we all value and is very much part of the partnership that exists between home and school so do get in touch if there is anything you would like to talk through regarding your child's report.

Sixth Form

We now have 54 Year 11 students interested in joining our Sixth Form in September 2021 which is fantastic news. With a fantastic reputation for academic achievement, transfer to university and pastoral support we have also added a Double Business option next year which is proving a popular choice as we look to open The Lakes Business School!

In closing, I would like to thank all parents for supporting the expectations we have of our students. When students meet our expectations and follow our routines, we enjoy the caring, safe and vibrant school that we know and love. Enjoy your Easter break when it arrives – term ends at 3.10pm on Thursday 1 April 2021.

Kind regards



Andy Cunningham
Headteacher



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