

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 Friday 29 September 2017



Important Dates & Upcoming Events

Half term

Monday 23 – Friday 27 October

Christmas Holiday

**Wednesday 20 December students
return Thursday 4 January**



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STUDENT ABSENCE LINE 01384 817186

ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE

A successful return to Leasowes

It has been an excellent return to school since the beginning of September, but extremely busy. As a school we are just reaching the end of our Open fortnight, and these have been very successful. On the first evening the doors were opened early, prospective parents and children were queuing around the side of the theatre and record numbers had a tour of the school. This has continued in the mornings and the other evening with well over 900 visitors to the school. Our students have been an absolute credit to the school as they have so clearly expressed their enjoyment and happiness at being at Leasowes. I am very hopeful that we will be oversubscribed again next year.

The summer results were good. Again, we excelled with our English Baccalaureate (EBacc) scores being the best in the local area (4+/C or above – 27%; 5+/C or above – 19%), and there are early indications that our Progress 8 score (a measure of attainment based on their 5 years in the school) has improved on the previous year. There were some exceptional individual results from students, in particular I must congratulate Nicole Ferro who achieved a grade 9 in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics as well as A*'s in all other subjects. Nicole has now started at our 6th form with a number of other students from last years' year 11, and these have all settled onto their A-level and BTEC level 3 courses, either at Leasowes or within the Invictus schools.

Our students are looking exceptionally smart at the beginning of the year and I must thank the parents and carers for supporting our uniform code. However, there are a few students who are still not wearing appropriate footwear or trousers as identified in the planner. Please rectify this as soon as possible.

It has been lovely seeing our year 7 students settle quickly into the secondary school. Some of the things they have said include:

"It's great that I've got to meet so many new people and I'm going to make the most of my next 5 years."

"I have made lots of friends...I also feel very independent."

We look forward to them continuing this throughout their time with us and I would just like to remind

Continued

everyone in year 7 one of the things from the Induction Evening, that it would be a shame to only attend the lessons at school. I wonder how many students have signed up to the many different clubs and opportunities that the school offers? Try something new next week.

Good attendance to school will remain an important aspect of our improvement. We have made a good start with attendance, but there have been many requests for leave of absence. There will be a separate article about this within the newsletter, so please read it carefully. Absence from school does have an impact on attainment.

I am looking forward to the rest of this term, seeing our students' progress in their attainment, grow maturely as young people being underpinned by our school motto *Aspire and Achieve*.

Mr M Mynott – Interim Headteacher

Attendance news – September 2017

Please be advised that from 5th September 2017 we as a school, in conjunction with the Local Authority (Education Investigation Service) will continue to issue **Penalty Notices** for holidays during term time. All requests for a Leave of Absence **MUST** be applied for on the appropriate form that can be obtained from the school reception. We are sharing this information as there have been too many requests for leave of absence already this term and there have been occasions when the school have not been informed.

Due to the Education (Pupil Registration 2006)(England)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 that came into force, a Leave of Absence **shall not be granted** unless:

“The Head Teacher considers the request to have exceptional circumstances relating to the application.”

If Leave of Absence is taken after the Head Teacher has considered it and deemed it NOT to have exceptional circumstances, or you do not make an application in advance, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised (coded with a G) and may be referred to the Education Investigation Service. This could then result in a Penalty Fine. A Penalty Fine is an intervention that is available to promote better school attendance. The fine is imposed upon parents and is £60 if paid within 21 days of receipt, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days. If after 28 days the fine has not been paid parents can be prosecuted.

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 states that parents are responsible for ensuring their children of compulsory school age receive efficient full time education that is suitable to the child's age and parents must ensure their child' regular attendance at the school.

More information can be found on:

www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/parental-support/dudley-education-investigation-service/information-for-parents/

Please contact Andrea Coppage (School Attendance officer) on 01384 816285 for more information.