

The Ladder School

The Ladder School, Millennium House, 24 Lower Hall Lane, Walsall, WS1 1RL
info@ladderschool.org | 01922 285848 | www.ladderschool.org

Date: Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Our Reference: Newsletter March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to extend my thanks for the support from parents/carers at this particularly difficult time. Over the course of the next few weeks there are some key events that we wanted to highlight to you and some general procedural things that you need to be aware of.

First and foremost, please can you ensure that you contact our Main Office if you change address, phone number or e-mail address. Our School Information Management System must hold the correct information for parents/carers, as this is the main form of contact we use and links to many of our partner platforms such as ParentMail. Therefore, having the right information is imperative.

ParentMail

A letter has been recently sent to parents/carers regarding ParentMail. It is important that everyone registers with ParentMail, as in the future, all letters and relevant school information will be emailed to parents/carers. In addition, from 01 April 2020, the school will no longer be able to accept cash/cheques and any payments for trips/books will have to be paid for through ParentMail.

Absence Procedure

Can all parents/carers ensure that they contact school before 9.00am if your child is absent? This helps us ensure first day calling can be completed in a timely manner to ensure the safety of our students/your children. If a child is absent from school, it is important that we are made aware of the reason for the absence. To support parents/carers who work, we aim to send absence texts, rather than make calls, as often this is easier for people, who are working, to respond to.

Attendance Monitoring

From the 01 April 2020 we will have a Service Level Agreement with Walsall Council to support in managing the absence of students. Staff from Walsall Council will be part of our school strategy to improve attendance for our students. From April onwards students that are persistently absent (have attendance below 90%) will be monitored by Walsall Council, as well as, school to work with families to improve student attendance.

Coronavirus

As a school, we are following Department for Education and Public Health England guidelines to remain open. We are receiving daily updates and we have strategies in place as a school and as part of the wider Mercian Trust, to tackle the difficulties being faced by families.

We are asking students to wash hands as often as they can, we will ensure there are supplies of soap in all of the toilets and provide sanitiser gel in key places around school. Staff serving food will continue to follow the stringent hygiene guidelines set out.

The current advice on handwashing is that students should use warm water and soap and wash their hands thoroughly for a minimum of 20 seconds. This should be done on arrival to school, after using the toilet, before eating or handling food and before students leave in an evening.

Our cleaners are prioritising surfaces in classrooms and things that are touched regularly to stop the spread of germs.

In addition to the measures already in place, can you ask your child to ensure that;

- If they cough or sneeze they will cover their mouth/nose with a tissue or their elbow;
- They put any used tissues in the bin and wash their hands immediately;
- Try and avoid touching their face with their hands;
- Avoid contact with people that are unwell.

Following current advice, families should self-isolate if a student, or someone living in the same household falls ill with either;

- A temperature above 37.8 degrees and or;
- A new cough.

You should follow the latest Government and Public Health England advice. Please be aware this advice is changing by the hour. Please contact the school using the normal reporting procedure to inform us of this absence, as soon as possible, to help protect the whole school community.

School Closure

If there is a need to close school for any reason, students are expected to work from home. Work for students will be posted on the school website and staff will be contactable by e-mail at specific times during the day in order to offer students help and advice with work. Staff will send work directly to students via e-mail. It is important that students check they can log onto their e-mail from home and let their Learning Coach know, if there is an issue with staff.

Staff will keep in touch with students and families to ensure that they are safe and well in the event of a school closure. If someone falls ill, please report this to us via info@ladderschool.org if the Main School number is unavailable.

Damage in School

Recently, there has been a significant amount of damage sustained to doors in the school which has led to the need for them to be replaced. Please note that any damage caused by students will result in the perpetrator being identified through the use of the CCTV cameras in the school. In turn, this will result in an invoice being sent home for payment and the risk of the Police being contacted, to visit school, to see the culprit causing the criminal damage and vandalism.

Revision and Exam Preparation




As the GCSE exam season approaches, staff at The Ladder School are working hard to make sure our Y11 students are well prepared. Students who have been absent for long periods will have had work sent home to complete to stop them falling further behind. In addition, teaching staff are supporting them in a range of different ways, including giving access to practice questions, text books and lessons through online programmes like Maths Watch and Kerboodle, for which students have login details.

For those who prefer face to face support from their teachers, revision of key topics takes place every Tuesday and Thursday after school at the “Three 20 Revision Club”. Here, students can access 20 minutes of focussed support in the three core subjects - Maths, English and Science.


The Ladder School
Three Twenty Revision Club

20 mins Maths • 20 mins English • 20 mins Science


STARTING MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2020



- ✓ 20 minutes of topic specific support in Maths, English or Science.
- ✓ Exam practice.
- ✓ Past questions



TUES & THURS
3.00PM – 4.00PM
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
ALL SESSIONS IN ENGLISH ROOM



- ✓ Stay for 1, 2 or all 3 subjects
- ✓ Learn how to improve your grade
- ✓ Recap missed topics.

In order to be successful at GCSE, it is important that students are self-motivated and able to direct their own learning. With this in mind, the Science and English Department have purchased CGP Revision Guides and Workbooks which students can use independently at home for revision.

The Ladder School also intend to offer an Easter Revision School, where students can come in to revise, access past papers or finalise outstanding coursework.

We are aware that the exams can be a time of worry and anxiety for some students and would suggest that students speak to their Learning Coach about this or ask to be referred to one of our school therapists; who may be able to suggest useful techniques that students can use during times of anxiety.

New Y9 curriculum

Year 9 students have been trialling an exciting new curriculum this half term aimed at providing them with the opportunity to develop and improve some of their softer skills such as Teamwork, Communication, Problem Solving, Leadership through a range of activities such as Cooking, First Aid and Media Studies. More importantly, Y9 students will also have the opportunity to trial and get a real taste of all of the Y10/11 Option subjects, before committing to a Pathway choice for September 2020. We look forward to sharing some of the outcomes of their programme with you soon

Y10 Work Experience

We are working with a range of careers advisers and employers to facilitate the provision of a week of work experience for all our Y10 students between 29 June and 3 July 2020. One to one meetings will take place with students over the next couple of weeks to determine the areas of work they may be interested in and suitable employers in those fields contacted. If parents, careers or relatives are able to provide their own placement, then please call school to discuss any potential offer with Mrs Lecointe or Mr Singh.



Vocational Coursework

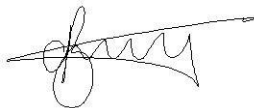
Students need to make sure that they are in school to complete their coursework in lesson. All coursework needs to be completed to allow the students to gain a qualification in their vocational subjects. The students have worked really hard on their coursework so far, and have made some really good progress. This is the final push now for all students to complete their coursework to the best of their ability and secure the qualification they deserve. Once the coursework is complete, the students then need to refocus on their vocational exam. All resources and revision guides are at the ready to support Y11 in their exam and completing the course. The time is now, to focus and complete these vocational qualifications to allow for college courses, apprenticeships and job opportunities to become available for our students.

Social Media

Can you speak to your child about being safe online? We often have discussions in school about this but we are seeing and hearing about students falling out online. As you know phones are not allowed in school in order to tackle this. Our advice to parents/carers would be not to respond or get involved with disagreements online. Advise your child to screenshot the messages, delete and block the other parties involved and if necessary contact the Police. Please let school know of any issues to avoid potential repercussions in school.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with your child's Learning Coach in the first instance. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @ladderschool to hear all the latest news and updates.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Bury
Principal

