

The Ladder School

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Date: Friday, 25 September 2020 Our Reference: Support Students Post Lockdown

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all students back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all students catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a student is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

This is why I am updating you in writing, in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors/trustees.

School is open from 8.35am each morning, we encourage students to arrive at this time in order to be 'decluttered' and be ready to learn in class at 8.45am. Any student that arrives on site after 8.45am will be marked as late and be expected to stay for their Booster Session that relates to the lesson they have period one. The school day finishes at 3.00pm, however if students are on time and have behaved well all day, they will be given permission to leave at 2.30pm. This information will be recorded on their Personal Performance Tracker. This will naturally stagger the end of the school day. Please remind your child that they must wait on the yellow markings/tape to hand belongings in or to be dismissed.

Our attendance has increased by 13% from the week before schools closed compared to this week. Whilst this is a great indication that students are back in school and learning, we would really love this to be even higher. If you are reporting a child's absence, please be clear if they are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms so we can advise you on the best action to take.

We are really pleased to share that we are teaching our full range of subjects at the moment, with extra measures to make all lessons safe. We ask students in Year 10 and Year 11 to bring PE kit on a Tuesday as they can change in individual cubicles. We are currently running Sports Leaders sessions on site, but hope to be back to our usual facilities in the near future.

Some students engaged brilliantly in home learning throughout the period of lockdown. You will be aware that we delivered live video lessons to support students.



To enhance our home learning provision, we have invested in Kindle Fire Tablets for all students, this will become their home learning tool to complete homework, to help them catch up on work missed and also be an aid if further lockdown measures are introduced.

Please let us know if you don't have the internet at home so we can arrange for students to download their work in school before they take their tablet home, then this can be updated weekly in school. In the event of another school closure, we will be able to provide quicker support to get students learning.

We place a high value on Key Working sessions and students engaged well during the period of lockdown. These will continue in September and students need to work on their weekly targets, in order to improve their progress and achievement at school.

Finally, we have made lots of provision to keep students mentally healthy in school, but if you do have a concern in relation to your child's emotional health, please let us know and we will do our best to provide/signpost you to support. Over the coming months, we will have trainee therapists working in school, we are expanding our Base 25 (counselling provision) and we are working with Mental Health Nurses, to provide additional support to students.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the schools and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.



Yours sincerely

Mr C Bury
Principal

