

Dear parent / carer,

As we are now well into the first half term of the academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with some important news and updates from the first few weeks back. From next week, we will once again be publishing our weekly LEAFlet which will keep all parents abreast of the latest news and developments as they happen, but for now we will briefly summarise the key points that parents need to be aware of.

Welcome back!

Firstly, it has been a fantastic start to the new year. All year groups have come back with a positive outlook, and we have already broken our record for Achievement Points in the first few weeks. Attendance is also at the highest level for several years – the challenge now is maintaining that as students get tired over the long autumn term. The number of Behaviour Points has also reduced as students continue to rise to our expectations in school, and fixtures and rehearsals have started already as we gear up for another year of outstanding success.

Uniform & equipment

Can we please just take this opportunity to remind parents about the importance of students having the correct uniform and equipment. These are checked every day by tutors and so far, this year a significant proportion of Behaviour Points have been for incorrect uniform or missing equipment, both things that are entirely avoidable. Please regularly check that your child has everything they need for learning and training before they come to school – full lists are available on our website, or you can email your child's tutor if you need specific advice. If you do notice an issue that cannot be rectified before they come to school, please let their tutor know so that we can support as needed.

APB (Attendance, Progress, Behaviour)

As always, we continue to raise the bar every year in terms of our expectations of LEAF students. We want our young people to be the very best they can be and so we demand the best from them every single day. With this in mind, we have slightly changed the criteria for APB this year as follows:

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Tim Clark, Head of School
Matt Britt, Chief Education Officer
Susan Hamilton, Interim Chief Executive Officer

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- 10 Behaviour Points in a week
- Any unauthorised absence (including holidays)
- 2 or more lates to school in a week
- 2 or more missed homework in a week
- A failed or missed SLT Detention

If any of these targets are not met, then students will be removed from most of their training for the following week as per our policy. Reports are run every Friday after school and parents will be notified on a Sunday if their child has been put in APB for that week.

Attendance

As mentioned above, it has been a positive start to the year with us averaging 95% attendance across the school. If you have any questions about our attendance process, then please see our Attendance Guide by clicking [here](#). Please note that we do not authorise term time holidays and students will be placed in APB if they are taken out of school for this purpose.

Transport

Please be reminded that cars are not allowed on site – students must be dropped off outside the gates. When collecting your children, please park considerately – we have had some complaints about parents parking right outside the gates on the double yellow and zig zag lines. This is a serious safety concern when our students leave at the end of the day, so please ensure that you park further down Duck Lane. Your children are more than capable of walking a few extra yards!

If your child rides to school, please remind them to lock their bikes up in the bike sheds – we cannot be responsible for any stolen bikes if they are not secured properly.

Wellbeing surveys

Mrs Bellot has re-launched the Wellbeing Surveys this week. These online surveys are sent to all students through Teams on a Monday and allow them to indicate how they are feeling each week in terms of their physical and mental health. These are critical in that they allow us to identify any pastoral support that is needed for our young people – they can even request an urgent check in with the pastoral team if needed. Please encourage

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your child to complete this every Monday, even if they are feeling fine and don't need any support.

FACE

As a school, we pay for a licence for FACE (Family Advice, Communication & Education) which allows parents free access to a range of excellent parenting resources. These online seminars and workshops provide fantastic support for parents and cover everything from dealing with screen time and defiance to coping with school anxiety and SEN needs. To take advantage of your free membership, please visit www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk and use the code **LS200325** to access all their resources for free. We will publish the calendar of forthcoming sessions each week in the LEAFlet.

Study club

On Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays we run a study club after school until 4.15pm. This is a supervised quiet space where students can revise, complete homework or use the computers to do coursework. There is no need to book, students can just stay after school and get the support they need from members of staff. If your child struggles to complete homework at home, then this is an excellent way of them completing it in school but with a member of staff available if they need it. Homework is a vital part of our academic provision at LEAF – it provides students with essential skills in independent work that they will need when revising for their exams, so your support in ensuring they complete their homework fully is much appreciated.

Year 11 Revision evening – Save the date!

Year 11 parents will shortly be receiving invitations to our Year 11 Revision evening on Thursday 8th October from 6pm. This important evening will allow parents and students to gain plenty of advice and support ahead of the forthcoming PPE exams after half term, particularly regarding revising and studying at home. There will be a session from the Mental Health Support Team on supporting your child's mental health at this difficult time as well as specific sessions on how best to revise for English and Maths. This is a very important evening that has always been very well received by those who have taken part so we would urge all parents to attend with their young people. **Extensive research has proven that parental support is the biggest single determining factor in a child's**

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academic achievement at school, so your support as parents is a critical part of their success.

United Learning transition – parents’ meeting

You will have also received a letter inviting you to the United Learning information evening next Tuesday, 29th September at 5pm. If you would like to attend this to find out more about our transition to United Learning, please click on this link to register: [LEAF Studio and United Learning Parents Meeting – Fill out form](#)

Training Fund

To give our students the best possible opportunities, we rely on parent and family contributions to our Training Fund. A small monthly donation of **£5.00** directly supports our Sport and Performing Arts specialisms, helping us provide high-quality equipment, facilities and experiences for all. We ask all parents to commit to this – if you have not already signed up then please click on this link for more information: [LEAF Studio School & Sixth Form – Support Us](#)

Parent Survey 2026

At the end of last year, we sent out a survey to parents and carers to enable them to give their views on LEAF and the provision we offer. Overall, the survey results present a strongly positive picture of pupils' experience at LEAF, particularly around happiness, safety, behaviour, personal development and the willingness of parents to recommend the school. Key findings include:

- 97% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is happy at LEAF
- 100% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child is safe at LEAF
- 97% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that behaviour is good at LEAF
- 100% of SEN parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child gets the support that they need at LEAF
- 91% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend LEAF to other parents

However, there were several areas where the responses were more mixed, including around communication about learning, handling concerns, and the quality of information

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provided to parents. All this feedback is useful for us as we look to improve as a school, and we are already implementing processes in order to address these.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support – we look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year to help your child perform to their full potential.



Mr Clark
Head of School

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