



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent

I hope you and your family have enjoyed the summer. At LPA we are very much looking forward to the new academic year and have enjoyed welcoming our new Yr7s and Year 12s today. The school returns to a more 'normal' feel without 'bubbles' and many of the restrictions we have had in place. We are still being very mindful of the ongoing risks and we will still be stressing the need for regular hand washing and using hand sanitiser as well as ensuring that indoor areas are well ventilated. We have had a good uptake in our testing centre with only a very small number of positive cases reported. If your child was unable to attend the test centre then I would encourage them to test at home prior to returning to school. We are continuing to encourage all pupils and staff to test twice weekly. I have attached an updated Risk Assessment and Contingency Management Plan to the email.

Attendance

All Children must attend school unless they are ill. From 16th August 2021, children under 18 (or double vaccinated adults) do not need to self-isolate or miss school if a member of their household or a contact, has COVID-19. Instead, they will need to book a PCR test but can continue coming into school as long as they have no symptoms and the test result is negative. If your child develops Covid symptoms at home, they should stay at home and book a PCR test. NOT a Lateral Flow test. If your child develops Covid symptoms at school, they will be sent home and should book a PCR test. If your child tests positive for Covid, they will need to self-isolate. The rest of the household does not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or fully vaccinated – but instead should book a PCR test. Please advise the school if your child receives a positive test result.

Contact Tracing and Close Contacts

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

From 16 August, if a close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take a PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts.

Reading initiative

There has been a lot in the press about missed learning and the need for pupils to 'catch-up' lost learning. Unfortunately, there is never coverage of how well the pupils have coped over the last 18 months and the skills they have acquired during this time. We recognise that one area which will make a real difference to pupils' learning is increased reading as it benefits all areas of the



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curriculum. Therefore, we are introducing a new reading initiative. Twice a week, for 20 minutes, pupils in Years 7 to 9 are going to be read to in their tutor groups. We have carefully selected a range of stories from different cultures, traditions and time periods, as well as a careful selection of important works of non-fiction. By reading to pupils, we are able to supplement the text with valuable context that boosts pupils' knowledge and understanding. In addition to providing our pupils with access to some of the best fiction and non-fiction ever written, the tutor group reading programme is also designed to complement the curriculum, drawing links to ideas, themes and figures studied in lessons. We appreciate some pupils may have read these texts but there is no harm in pupils hearing them again.

The books we have selected so far are;

Year 7

Fiction – The boy at the back of the class

Non-fiction – You are a champion and You are awesome.

Year 8

Fiction – The High-Rise Mystery.

Non-fiction- You are a champion and You are awesome.

Year 9

Fiction – Noughts and Crosses

Non-fiction – Dare to be you

We will continue to communicate future texts over this academic year.

School Day

As indicated in my letter at the end of term we have altered the timings of the school day slightly:

Day	Arrival
Monday	8:40
Tuesday	8:30
Wednesday	8:30
Thursday	8:30
Friday	8:40

KS3 pupils will depart at 2.55pm, Sixth Form students at 3.00pm and KS4 pupils at 3.05pm.

In the morning parents can drop their children off at the front of the school but at the end of the day only parents with prior permission are permitted to drive on to the school site. These parents will need to show the staff on the gate their parking permit. If your child is riding their bike to school then please emphasise the importance of wearing a safety helmet.

Although visitors are now permitted we would ask parents to only come to school for pre-arranged



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appointments. Most parental visits during the day are because pupils have forgotten to bring something. Our Character theme for this term is Organisation and we will be encouraging pupils to ensure that they pack their school bags each night to help avoid this.

Uniform

All pupils are now expected to attend school in full uniform and bring PE kit to change into for their timetabled PE lessons. If they have PE, last lesson, then they will be allowed to leave the site in their PE kit. We have very high expectations of uniform and so please ensure that your child observes the academy uniform rules. If you have any concerns regarding this then contact your child's Pastoral Support Adviser if you have any concerns in this regard.

Upcoming Dates to be aware of

9th September – 3.15pm –3.45pm Year 7 Parents chance to meet SLT (please note there is no onsite parking for this event)

14th September – Year 6 Open Evening – **School finishes at 2.00pm for all pupils**

15th September – Year 6 Open evening – normal school day

22nd September – Year 10 Introduction to GCSE evening

28th September – Year 13 Extended Project Qualification Evening (EPQ)

29th September – Year 7 Tutor consultation evening

19th October – Year 11 Key to Success Evening

Further information regarding these events will be sent out in due course.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson
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