

The Ladder School

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Date: Tuesday, 20 April 2021

Our Reference: Summer Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all students back into school safely prior to the Easter break. 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. As the country begins to open up, please ensure students are staying safe and are completing their Lateral Flow Tests regularly, i.e. twice per week. Please report any positive tests to school immediately.

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. Booster Sessions are a compulsory part of the school day and all students must complete them, if they are issued the session, without any fuss. This information will be recorded on their Personal Performance Tracker. This will naturally stagger the end of the school day, to add additional safety measures for dismissal. Please remind your child that they must wait on the yellow markings/tape to hand belongings in or to be dismissed.

Our attendance has been impacted by the challenges of the pandemic and I am sure as parents/carers you will have found getting students back into routine difficult. As a school we expect students to aspire to have 100% attendance, but we require a minimum of 95% attendance for all students. We will always work closely with parents/carers to tackle low attendance; we are obliged to share instances of non-attendance with our partners at Walsall Local Authority who represent us from an Education Welfare perspective. The government have re-enforced the requirement for attendance and will use statutory action for non-attendance, if the appropriate threshold is met.

We expect all students to behave in an appropriate way, in school and within the wider community. It is really important that students conduct themselves respectfully in lessons and around school. We ask students to use their Personal Performance Tracker as a self-regulation tool. Students will continue to be rewarded using the modified school reward system. We politely ask that you re-enforce these expectations with your child. Disruption to lessons not only has an impact on the individual student, but also the whole class. We will continue to invite parents/carers to meet with staff in school to explore solutions for those students not achieving our minimum expectations.



Following our return to school after the most recent national lockdown, we have noticed a significant deterioration in language, particularly swearing. Swearing is unnecessary and is offensive to others. Mrs Williams has worked with all staff and students on a project to tackle this and it will launch from Monday 26 April 2021. Students that are using appropriate language and not swearing will be rewarded at the end of the day. Individual parents/carers will be contacted where students directly swear at a member of staff; students will have to return home on a fixed term exclusion. Students that are repeatedly swearing (not directed at anyone) during the school day will have to attend a swearing clinic after school. It is not our desire to use these sanctions as a school, but staff and students are in agreement, that the individuals doing this are spoiling the school environment for everyone.

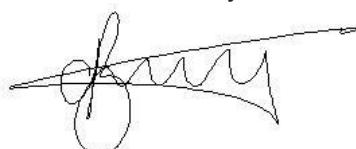
Please be aware that all students should be in school in the correct uniform. As non-essential shops and the school uniform shop are back open, all students will be expected to come in dressed correctly. If you are having issues with uniform, please contact us and let us know. Students in Y10/11 need their PE kit on Tuesday's and Y9 students need their PE kit on Thursday and Friday.

| Year Group | What students must wear | | | What is not acceptable |
|------------|---|---|--|---|
| 9, 10, 11 | TLS Jumper TLS Trousers/Skirt TLS Tie White Shirt Black Leather Shoes | PE Kit Plain black top/bottoms Trainers | Pair of earrings (Optional) Ring (Optional) Watch (Optional) | No facial piercings (including spacers) No visible tattoos No trainers/Converse/Vans No coat or hoodie inside the building No headwear (hats or caps) No extreme haircuts/colour |
| 12 | TLS Zip Top TLS Trousers/Skirt TLS Polo Shirt Black Leather Shoes | | Pair of earrings (Optional) Ring (Optional) Watch (Optional) | |

The government have advised that schools should continue to wear face coverings. At The Ladder School, we are encouraging all students to wear a face covering throughout the day to ensure they remain safe and help protect others.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you, construction work started for the new building on Monday 19 April 2021, this is a really exciting milestone in the TLS journey. Visit our website or Twitter page to find out more information.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Bury
Principal



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