



20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

JCO/JHR/EndYrLetter2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: End of Year Letter

Following on from the letter from the Leigh Academies Trust CEO on 13<sup>th</sup> July, I am now able to write to you with further information on the full opening of The Leigh Academy in September.

As you will know the government announced at the start of July the objective that 'all schools will reopen for all pupils from the start of the autumn term'. Since then we have been planning, using the government guidance, as to how we can ensure that all students can return to The Leigh Academy and also implement the measures required to keep our community as safe as possible.

From September, students will be organised into year group 'bubbles' and as such they will not be able to mix with students in other year group 'bubbles'. This means that each year group's location within the building, their timetable, as well as breaks, lunches, entry and exit times needed to be carefully considered and managed to minimise contact with students from other year groups. Whilst considering this, it remains important to us that we are able to deliver as full a curriculum offer to every year group as possible and in particular for students who have chosen their options to be able to continue to study all of their chosen subjects. This has proven to be a mammoth feat of organisation and we are now able to share our plans with you:

Firstly, in terms of location each year group 'bubble' will be based in zones within the building.

- Year 7 bubble will be based in the Creative wing
- Year 8 bubble will be based on first and second floor Chaucer College
- Year 9 bubble will be based on first and second floor Da Vinci College
- Year 10 bubble will be based on first and second floor Darwin College
- Year 11 bubble will be based on first and second floor Brunel College
- Post-16 bubble (including Year 12 & 13) will be located in the rooms on the ground floor across the academy.

Whilst students will continue to belong to their current College community, they will be based in their zone and will only be with students in their year group. This includes not only teaching groups but will be the same for tutor groups which will consist of one year group only (not vertical tutor groups as previously). There will also be some changes in terms of leadership of the year groups. Each Head of College will write again soon with further details.

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As much as is possible, staff will move to students, rather than students move to staff. This is easier in Year 7, 8 and 9. In Year 10, 11, 12 and 13, students will need to move rooms as they move between option subjects but will remain in their bubbles and locations as they do so.

In order to further minimise contact between year group bubbles and ensure an orderly arrival and departure, there will also be staggered start and finish times. Below are the timings for each year group, on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7,8, & 9) will start their day at 8:30am and finish at 3:00pm

Students in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) will start their day at 9:00am and finish at 3:30pm

Students in Key Stage 5 (Year 12 and 13) will start their day at 9:00am and finish at 1:30pm (further details to follow in a separate Post-16 letter)

On Wednesdays the academy will continue to close earlier to allow for staff professional development and meetings to take place. Key Stage 3 will finish at 2:00pm on Wednesdays and Key Stage 4 will finish at 2:15pm on Wednesdays.

There will also be designated entry and exit points for each year group and this will be explained in detail nearer the time. In addition, there will be staggered break and lunch times so that students from different 'bubbles' do not mix.

We will start back from the Summer break with a phased approach. This will allow both students and staff to familiarise themselves, with our expectations, with life at The Leigh Academy, the measures in place, and so allow all to feel reassured and confident in their return.

- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August - Year 7 Induction Day
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Year 7, 11, and 13 return for lessons
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - Year 7, 11 and 13 continue and Year 8 return
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September- Year 7, 8, 11 and 13 continue and Year 9 return
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Year 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 continue and Year 10 return
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September - Year 12 Induction Day

Each year group will receive a letter closer to the time with details of their first day and week.

A few reminders:

- The Leigh behavior policy is being updated and students will be expected to follow these policies, which will take into account the new arrangements to keep everyone safe.
- Full academy uniform must be worn from day one, with business dress for Post-16 students
- Please use the summer holidays to grow out/remove any lockdown experimental haircuts, extreme hairstyles and unnatural colours are not part of the uniform policy/dress code so please ensure this is resolved.
- Attendance will be compulsory.
- Enhanced hygiene and sanitation measures will continue - eg hand sanitizers available throughout the building and in every classroom.

- Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to the academy if possible, there are cycle racks available for students to lock their bikes securely on site.
- If your child usually travels on public transport or school buses, please check with the bus companies as to what service will be provided in September.
- Students on public transport must wear face coverings and should practise social distancing as much as they can with the students not within their year group bubble whilst travelling.

I am also very much aware of how skilled many of our staff and students have now become in online learning and it is desirable and practical that we should wish to continue to hone these skills. Therefore, we will be developing a 'blended approach' to learning with on site lessons in the day supported with online homework through google classrooms. This will also ensure that if there were to be a need to self-isolate for a student, a family, a member of staff, or even a whole 'bubble' we will quickly be able to ensure that learning time is not lost. It is to this end that we are incredibly lucky to be part of the LAT Chromebook programme and we will be giving further details to parents in September as we aim to ensure that every student has access to a device of their own to use for their studies.

Throughout the last four months, the resilience of staff, parents and students to overcome challenges and determination to ensure that the best education possible for all has proven what a great community we have at The Leigh Academy. I want to thank you all for your support and very much look forward to seeing all students back with us in September.

I wish you a lovely summer. I am sure that a break from supporting your child with their home learning is much needed! I hope that you are all able to create happy memories with family and friends over the weeks ahead and we look forward to hearing about them from our students on their return to us.

Best wishes and take care

Yours faithfully



Julia Collins  
Principal