

THE LEIGH ACADEMY

2nd July 2020

JCO/GPE/Yr8Return



Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Year 8 Keeping in Touch Session

Further to my letter yesterday I am pleased to be able to share our plans for Year 8 students to have a 'Keeping in Touch' session at The Leigh Academy before the summer break.

Chaucer/Darwin students will attend on Monday 20th July.
DaVinci/Brunel students will attend on Tuesday 21st July.

Students will attend for a 90-minute session with their current tutor. These sessions will be staggered throughout the day to minimise contact with other groups.

The purpose of the session is for students to have the opportunity to reconnect with each other, with their tutor and be physically present on our academy site. The sessions will focus on student wellbeing, a review of distance learning and target setting for the year ahead. Students will also receive their end of year reports and will be able to discuss these with their tutor.

We wish for your child to leave the day feeling reassured and confident. As well as having re-established relationships with their peers and with staff, whilst being reminded of our expectations and what it means to be a Leigh student as they move into Year 9.

Our safety measures on site include:

- Social distancing, small groups, minimising student movement, allocated toilet facilities, staggered entry, exit, lunches, regular handwashing, increased cleaning throughout the day, hand sanitisers in every room, one-way systems, updated procedures for our medical room and if a child is unwell.
- We have carried out risk assessments to ensure we are following all guidance as best possible; in line with the particular context of our site and community
- The use of public transport to and from the academy is discouraged but if necessary then the government's guidelines regarding the use of public transport should be followed.

Students do not need to wear school uniforms as I am very aware of how much children can grow over the space of 13 weeks and I am sure that uniforms and shoes will be outgrown with little opportunity to buy new ones at this time. As such students are asked to wear comfortable, sensible clothes to school. This could be a tracksuit, skirt or shorts and a T-shirt etc. All clothes should be practical for a day of learning in school, as this is not a fashion show! All clothes should be washed on return home from school. Shoes could be trainers or summer shoes but no sliders or flip flops. Shoes must be closed toe and heel for health and safety reasons.

Students will be able to use the toilets when they need to but each group of students will be allocated a set of toilets for their use. Only one student will be able to go into the toilet block at one time. The guidance is that schools do not require the use of PPE. However, this is a personal choice for staff and students, who may choose to wear PPE, gloves and/or mask if they wish to do so. PPE will be used by cleaners, site staff and first aiders.

I do appreciate that this is a worrying time for parents and I want to reassure you that safety has always been and remains a priority. It is important that we begin to re-establish routines and

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connections and this plan enables us to begin to do this, as Year 8 students return to the academy in a carefully managed way and will set them up for an easier return to us in September.

Please complete the survey using this link <https://forms.gle/2Don5UwiMbzd7J8H6> to indicate whether your child will attend the 'Keeping in Touch' session at The Leigh Academy. Please complete by 5.00pm on Monday 6th July. This will help us with our planning.

Specific details and timings for your child will then follow next week.

We hope that your child will take up this opportunity to reconnect with us before the summer break, but no parents will be penalised for absence.

I look forward to welcoming your child back to The Leigh later this month.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Collins', written in a cursive style.

Julia Collins
Principal