



25<sup>th</sup> August 2020

JCO/SFD/LeadingOnYr10

Green Street Green Road  
Dartford, Kent, DA1 1QE  
T: 01322 620400  
F: 01322 620401  
info@leighacademy.org.uk  
www.leighacademy.org.uk

Dear Parents/ Carers

Principal: Julia Collins

## **Re: Year 10 Return to The Leigh September 2020**

We hope that you have all been able to have some time to enjoy the sunshine over the summer and spend some time with family and friends. Following on from the letter sent to you on 20th July 2020, we can confirm that we are now ready for the full opening of The Leigh Academy in September for all students in all year groups. We recognise the importance of getting every student safely back into the academy, so that they can continue learning and achieving.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, we have implemented physical changes to the building in order to preserve the year group bubbles, that will minimise the potential for transmission of Covid-19, as per government guidelines. Each year group will have an allocated entrance and exit and there will be staggered arrival and departure times, with separate break and lunch times. Each year group will have its own zone within the building and all lessons will be taken within those designated for the year group bubble. Hand sanitising stations are prominently placed throughout the building and the one-way system we introduced when we reopened in June remains in force. For the time being, we are still unable to welcome visitors to the building, with meetings being held by phone or video conferencing. All of these arrangements are designed to keep staff and students as safe as possible during these uncertain times.

### **Arrangements for Year 10 students within the Year 10 'bubble'**

- Year 10 will return to the academy on Friday 4th September. Please wear a full academy uniform. There will be NO practical PE lessons on this day, even if it is scheduled on your son/daughter's timetable.
- The Year 10 academy day will start at 9:00am and finish at 3:30pm (2:15pm on Wednesdays).
- The Year 10 students will enter through the PE gate, and will be allowed on site from 8:35am - 8:55am. There will be no entry to the academy building before 9:00am. They will line up in tutor groups on the Basketball Court, and be escorted into the academy building through the doors that lead into the Chaucer/Darwin Wintergarden.
- The Year 10 'Bubble' will be based on the first and second floors of Darwin College. This will be for all of their lessons, except for their PE lessons.



- 9:00am - 10:00am will be a tutor period on Friday 4th September, so that we can go through the new Year 10 timetables, look at the new rules, protocols and expectations. This is to make sure everyone feels safe and supported before we start our learning.
- From Monday 7th September there will be one Year 10 tutor period each day from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. There are no assemblies scheduled at the moment.
- Year 10 will still have a 5-period day with 4 x 1-hour lessons and a 75-minute lesson that will also incorporate their breaktime.
- Year 10 will have a 15-minute break every day at 10:30am - 10:45am, and a 30-minute lunchtime at 1:00pm to 1:30pm. The students will have use of the Restaurant at break time. At lunchtime the students will also have access to the Snack Shack and be able to use the quad. There is also a new marquee set up on the field that the students will be able to use at lunchtime.
- Wednesday is still a 4-period day and the academy will finish at 2:15pm.
- All students will leave the academy site at the end of the day.

### **Overview of the Year 10 week\*:**

A significant change for September is the academy is moving to a one-week timetable.

8:35am - 8:55am	Arrival and line up on Basketball court in tutor groups
9:00am - 10:00am	Period 1
10:00am - 11:30am	Period 2
10:30am - 10:45am	Break
11:30am - 12:30pm	Period 3
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Period 4
1:00pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Period 5
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Tutor Time

\*On Wednesday a 15-minute tutor time will replace Period 5, and the students will be dismissed at 2:15pm.

### **Enrichment and intervention opportunities**

By its very mixed age nature, enrichment clubs and revision groups cannot happen in the same way as it has in the past, but we hope it will be reintroduced as soon as possible.

## **Approaches to teaching and learning**

The changes we have introduced will allow us to continue to teach a full curriculum offered to students in all year groups, however at first there will be some changes to the way that practical subjects will be delivered. For example, students will be asked to wear their PE kit to the academy on the days when they have practical PE lessons. They will then remain in their PE kit for the day. Changes to other practical lessons will be explained in full to students on their return.

Students will have been working independently at home for the last few months and will have developed their resilience and independent learning skills. We wish to continue to foster these and also to continue with the benefits of online learning, as such we will have Google classrooms set up for every physical classroom and we would ask all students to join these during the first week back. Over time we will also be able to link these to parent/carer emails which will enable parents to see what work is being completed. This will also be the case for the tutor Google classroom, allowing both students and parents easy access to the support of the form tutor. Please ask your son/daughter to join our Year 10 2020/21 Google Classroom, using the code: **xqptj25**.

## **Expectations and how Parents/Carers can help**

We ask parents to ensure that their child has a full academy uniform for their return, and that hair, nails and piercings etc meet the dress and uniform code (available on our website). Students should also have their student ID card with them each day, topped up via ParenPay or the machines on site - this will allow students to purchase food in the restaurant quickly and easily without the need for the exchange of cash.

We ask parents to ensure that their child has all the equipment required so that they do not need to share with others. Although the academy will provide much of the equipment, we do ask that every child has:

- Pencil case - pens, pencils, 30cm ruler, rubber, sharpener, coloured pencils, basic geometry set containing compass and protractor.
- A scientific calculator. The mathematics learning area recommends the Casio calculator models FX85GT or FX83GT. These are both readily available in stationery shops and supermarkets. Either of these would be suitable for use up to GCSE and A-Level Mathematics.
- Water bottle.
- A mask if using public transport on the way to and from the academy.

You may wish to also provide them with;

- Small bottle of hand sanitiser gel.
- Small packet of antiseptic wipes.
- Packet of tissues.

**Mobile Phones:** Mobile phones are not to be used or seen in the building at any time, especially as they are known to harbour germs. As such it is even more vital that the Academy rules regarding phones are followed. Phones must be switched off and in students' blazers, pocket or bag for the duration of time in the academy.

We encourage parents and carers to help enforce their children to maintain good study and timekeeping habits and follow the rules to keep themselves and others safe.

We ask parents and carers to explain to their children the importance of remaining in their year group bubbles and to not mix with other students outside their bubble. This is to ensure the safety of all students and staff. If students are using public transport for arrival to and from the academy, we ask that they adhere to the public health guidelines by wearing a face covering.

### **Support for Year 10 Students**


Whilst Heads of College will continue in these roles, they will also be taking the lead on a Year group 'bubble'. Ms Forde will lead on Year 10 and will be supported by Ms Bodle as Assistant Head of College, with Mrs Taylor as Student Services Manager.

Miss Jurjonaite will be the admin support. If you have any queries please contact any of us via email - our email addresses can be found on The Leigh Academy website, or call the academy reception on 01322 620400 and they will be happy to forward your call to one of us.

If your child is to be absent please do contact Miss Jurjonaite on 01322 620507 and leave a message, should she be unavailable.

We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to The Leigh Academy on Friday 4th September at 9:00am and working in partnership with you to support your child through the next stage of their education

Yours faithfully



Julia Collins  
Principle



Sarah Forde  
Leading on Year10