



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the new academic year, both existing parents, students and guardians, as well as those joining us for the first time. I hope 2019/20 will be a great year for us all. We have exciting plans for the year ahead as we work underline our key messages as a school like no other; inspiring achievement with values, character and community.

Examination Results

Once again Leighton Park students have achieved phenomenal GCSE, A Level and IB results. Our students demonstrate some of the best academic progress in the country. Many congratulations to all our students and I would like to thank the staff for all their work and dedication during the last academic year. It is fantastic that 31% of our A Levels gained were A* or A Grades – a terrific testament to our students' hard work and their teachers' guidance - and our top level GCSE results (Grades 7 -9) were the best in 14 years at 55%.

eBulletin

Our main means of communicating with parents and guardians is through the weekly eBulletin, which is routinely sent out every Wednesday during term time. Here you will find all the information about forthcoming events for the whole School and for each year group.

If you do not receive the eBulletin, please contact the School Office on schooloffice@leightonpark.com and let them know your correct email address so that we can check the right details are held on our system.

New School Strategy and Vision

Over the past year we have been working hard on the School branding and messaging. We have consulted widely on the words and images that we should use to explain the Leighton Park difference and what is so special about our School. In some detail:

Positioning Statement - *Where we fit in;*

Leighton Park is a leading, independent co-educational day and boarding school in Britain: Leighton Park's central purpose is to form young people of real character, independence and confidence, with a determined desire to change the world. This flows from our unique blend of deep Quaker values, the meaningful connections between our students and staff, first-class academic and pastoral support and our holistic approach to learning. Our inspirational and supportive family-feel environment enables us to deliver consistently an exceptional values-based education which leads to excellent achievement.

Mission Statement - *What we're doing;*

We inspire achievement with values, character and community like no other school can.

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www.leightonpark.com

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Registered office: Old School, Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading, RG2 7ED

Vision Statement - *What the world will gain when we succeed in our mission;*

To develop the qualities in our young people that will help them to reach their greatest potential: to become the global change-makers of the future.

Statement of Aims - *How we'll achieve our mission;*

- Inspiring excellence through achievement; we empower our students to work to the best of their academic ability. Taking an interest in, and deriving satisfaction from, study and personal growth – gaining an independence in their approach to work.
- Inspiring change through deep Quaker values; simplicity, truth, respect, integrity, peace, equality and sustainability. All these pervade our working practice, personal relationships and daily life, and inform our curriculum. After their time with us, these values continue to guide and inform our students to be a force for change, and to live ethical and fulfilling lives.
- Inspiring character; we seek to reveal young people of real character and independence; individuals who are free-thinking with a clear, confident awareness of themselves and others. We look for opportunities in self-discovery through a broad and diverse range of creative and cultural activities, recreation and sport, to grant our students, in our safe and enriching environment, the space and freedom to truly be themselves and achieve greater things as a result.
- Inspiring a strong commitment to community action and service; we nurture an exceptional sense of community in every aspect of School life. Such outstanding pastoral care enables our students to truly flourish as individuals.
- Inspiring our students for a life beyond the classroom; our commitment to realising students' creative talents combined with an inter-disciplinary and imaginative approach to STEAM and ethical enterprise foster creative impulses and skills in critical thinking, creative problem solving, entrepreneurship and leadership. The skills and knowledge, in short, for our students to be change-makers and achieve their greatest potential and truly let their lives speak.

New School Logo and Plans for 2019/20

You will see at the top of this letter the School's new logo, which I am pleased to share with you. The new logo aims to offer more reassurance and support to the School's brand line. The shield represents achievement, whilst the three oak leaves reflect values, character and community. The oak leaves have long been associated with Leighton Park's brand and our beautiful 65 acre site with its many oak trees whilst an additional nod to our heritage is the use of the brown/copper, as a School colour. Copper is intended to reflect the dynamism and energy of our students, as well as the School's strength in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM).

You will see changes in our School branding and messaging as we work towards our new quality agenda, aiming to improve all aspects of School life.

During this year we also plan to:

- Implement the intentions of the 2019 Boarding Review by starting to refurbish Fryer and Reckitt
- Launch our Global Citizenship and Perspectives GCSE course
- Develop our Ethical Entrepreneurship Plan
- Introduce a new Management Information System (School database) to improve parent communications and student registration
- Review uniform standards
- Extend our Outreach programme
- Develop a new Careers and Workplace-understanding programme
- Plan for the new boarding accommodation following the outcomes of the Boarding Review

Gold Book

All parents and guardians have been sent a copy of the first Leighton Park 'Gold Book' in the post, and all students will be given a copy at the start of term. This small compendium will be published once a year, replacing the section that used to be in the printed termly calendar entitled, 'What to do at Leighton Park'. We are no longer producing a termly printed calendar, as all information can be easily accessed from the School calendar on our website.

Annual Open Morning – Saturday 28th September

Our students are the best ambassadors for the School whether they participate as guides, in activities or in classroom demonstrations. Parents and guardians are reminded that, as this is part of the School's working calendar, all students are expected to attend Annual Open Morning. We anticipate that the event should finish around 12.00pm. Should there be any circumstances that may prevent your child attending, please email your child's Head of Section as soon as possible to ask for permission for your child to be absent. Details are below:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| Year 7 and Year 8 | Adrian Stewart | adrianstewart@leightonpark.com |
| Year 9 | Mark Simmons | marksimmons@leightonpark.com |
| Year 10 and Year 11 | Beverley Eldridge | beverleyeldridge@leightonpark.com |
| Sixth Form | Helen Taylor | helentaylor@leightonpark.com |

I very much appreciate your co-operation in advance.

Attendance and Absence

The School expects all students, including full boarders, to be present at School from the first day to the last day of each term. The term dates for the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-2021 are available on the School website.

All lessons and activities are an important part of a student's learning and School life; unnecessary absence can cause disruption to the learning and co-curricular programme for a whole group.

Day Students

If your son/daughter is not going to be present at School, please telephone the School Office on 0118 987 9600 no later than **8.00am on each day of absence** or alternatively, please email schooloffice@leightonpark.com.

Any requests for a day student to be absent from School for a day or more should usually be sent to the Head of Section, as detailed above, unless it is related to a medical appointment, where the request should be sent to the Housemaster/Housemistress and Tutor, copying in the School Office.

Boarders

Any requests for a boarder to arrive late at the start of term or leave early at the end of term must be sent for approval to the Head of Section, as detailed above. All requests must be sent well in advance. Please give the reason for making this request but understand that only exceptional reasons will gain approval. Flights and travel arrangements must not be made prior to making such requests as permission for absence may not be granted.

Any requests for a boarder to be absent from School for a day or more should also be sent to the Head of Section for approval unless it is related to university entrance, or weekend leave, where the request should be sent to the Housemaster/Housemistress.

New members of staff

We welcome to the School the following new members of teaching staff:

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|------------------|--|
| Natasha Coccia | Assistant Head: Director of Co-curricular and Outreach |
| Sally Saunders | Head of Careers |
| Oliver Staines | Head of Geography |
| Didier Descamps | Head of Modern Foreign Languages |
| Nicola Jenkins | Physics Teacher |
| Ella Langer | Art Teacher |
| Stephanie McGill | Temporary Music Teacher |
| Jo Toovey | Psychology Teacher |
| Ella Shepard | Resident Artist and Art Technician |
| Gemma Mason | Peripatetic Woodwind Teacher |
| Heather Sweetman | Resident Graduate - Pastoral Welfare and Fryer |
| Aurora Mears | Resident Graduate - PE and Games |
| Daryl Nash | Resident Graduate- Music and Media Technology |
| Matt Richards | Resident Coach |

I know that you will join me in giving them a very warm welcome to the Park.

'Meet the Head' event

This social event will be held on Wednesday 20th November before the Jazz Infusions Concert. Parents are always welcome to meet with me to make suggestions or raise any concern, but we will also be holding this new event where the members of the Leadership team and I will be available to chat, answer any questions and talk to parents about School life and the work that we do here. Attendance is entirely optional and further details will be circulated later this term.

Best wishes for the Autumn Term



Matthew L S Judd
Head