



**LEIGHTON PARK**  
FOUNDED 1890

## **Lower Sixth Parents' Welcome Evening** **Notes for parents and guardians who were unable to attend.**

### **Integration**

New Lower Sixth students have settled quickly, especially those who attended the Isle of Wight weekend.

### **Academic**

We are often asked how much independent study is required - a ballpark figure would be 5 hours/subject/week for A levels and 3 hours/HL subject/week for IBDP students who have more subjects and contact time, plus 1-2 hours/SL subject.

Students will receive a presentation on the successful habits of top performing students on Friday 20th September. There are no secrets to success: it is basically just well-directed hard work!

Students will also be given a handbook on 'How to manage your workload' later in the term when they start to identify this as an issue.

### **Reporting**

- First report (October Long Leave) - effort only
- Second report (Christmas) - full subjects reports
- Half termly grade cards will give a Target Grade and a Current Working Grade. Note that these are not necessarily the same and the cwg tells you the level the student is actually at.
- Full subject report at the end of the academic year.

### **Exams**

- Test week January 2020
- Exam Week w/c 11th May 2020

### **Life after LP**

- Unifrog will be launched after Long Leave - a database of all UK undergraduate courses that students can research
- UCAS Conference - we will take all L6 students in the Spring Term
- Careers Fairs/ Apprenticeships - Gap Year fair coming up soon (see eBulletin)

## **Important Dates**

**2nd October 6:30-8pm Supporting Sixth Formers to Succeed!** Please come along to this event in the Main Hall. We have a presentation on supporting Sixth Form students plus an explanation of the results of the baseline ALiis testing students undertook last week.

**9th October 6:30-8pm Africa 2020 Information Evening**

7th January Test Week

17th January 5.45-8.15pm Lower Sixth Parents' Evening

11th May Exam Week. Please note the importance of these examinations. There is a minimum requirement to automatically proceed into U6 of: DDD at A level or 12 points HL + 9 points SL for IBDP. Anyone not meeting this will complete a resit before the end of term.

### **Sixth Form Effort Descriptors**

These descriptors explain the level of effort demonstrated by students in and outside the classroom. Very few L6 students will be 'Working independently' at the start of the Sixth Form but this is the standard they are aiming for as they prepare for final examinations and then university. A student who is 'not yet working at Sixth Form level' is likely to be advancing towards the 'working as directed' descriptor but may not yet be fully appreciating the high standards required for success at this level.

**Working independently:** Students at this level:

- Take responsibility for extending their knowledge and understanding
- Read widely, taking a proactive approach to their work
- Demonstrate tenacity, improving their attainment in response to feedback.

**Working as directed:** Students at this level:

- Complete assignments on time and to an acceptable standard
- Are up to date with work
- Participate well in lessons, asking and answering questions.
- In order to achieve their full potential in Sixth Form, they will need to develop a more proactive approach, working more independently and taking greater responsibility for their own learning

**Not yet working as directed:** Students at this level:

- Complete sufficient work to merely pass the course
- Are not always up to date with all work
- Do not participate well in lessons.
- To make further progress, students will need to improve their time management and organisation, recognising the greater level of independent effort required at Sixth Form.

**Of concern:** Students at this level:

- Are falling significantly behind in assignments and on the course
- Are not yet rising to the challenges of Sixth Form study.
- The concern may reflect a lack of effort, lack of involvement in class, poor motivation or study skills, or poor attendance and punctuality.

### **Wider Reading**

We encourage students to read around their subject and to this end we provide a range of appropriate resources in the Library.

The school subscribes to a wide range of online resources. These include:

- Britannica School – a reliable and authoritative online encyclopedia
- Credo – a research tool
- Complete Issues – social issues of the day addressed from multiple viewpoints

- The Day – online newspaper designed for secondary schools
- Digital Theatre Plus – downloadable/streamed theatre productions, interviews etc.
- Eclipse.net – library catalogue
- Financial Times – online newspaper
- Issues Online – high-quality online articles on social issues
- JSTOR – library of academic journals, books and primary sources
- Massolit – web-based lectures on English, History, Classics and philosophy

Students are taught how to access and use these research tools as a part of their IBDP or during their introduction to the EPQ. Details of how to access each of these resources are to be found in the students 'Gold Book' of useful information.

We also have a wide range of journals available in the library for student to refer to.

Titles include:

Aesthetica

BBC History

CS4FN (computer Science for fun)

Designing

Foreign Affairs

Geographical

IB Review

ICON (architecture and design culture)

Lawyers2B

National Geographic

New Internationalist

New Scientist

Press Gazette

Private Eye

The Week

As well as a range of Review Titles, aimed at A level students and therefore ideal as wider reading for IBDP students. These include:

Biological Sciences

Business

Chemistry

Economics

Geography

Law

PE

Physics

Politics

Psychology

Sociology

RS

