



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

21st April 2020

Dear Parents

As we begin a Summer Term unlike any that we have experienced before, I just wanted to write to you with some information, but also to offer some personal thought and understanding at this time.

First of all, I'd like to welcome you all back into the community fold and hope that your children can continue to make the good progress they have made over the course of the first two terms in Year 9. I know that their teachers are looking forward to seeing them and that their tutors have missed them.

I believe you will have received a number of communications from School during the Easter break. These should have included the regular LP@Home emails and the more recent LP With You: Guided Distance Learning booklet. Please do read these and digest the relevant information for your children and help us to ensure that their focus is where it needs to be during the school day.

Naturally, their teachers and tutors will be reminding them of our expectations whilst 'at school' and offering help and support where required. We are looking forward to seeing them and welcoming them back – the Park is incredibly quiet and it would be much more pleasant all round if they were coming in each day.

We are aware of the impact on our students and on you whilst trying to learn at home, where brothers and sisters may be trying to do the same and, at the same time, you are trying to work. We know that this will present challenges and I would urge you to keep in touch with us in this regard.

Before we left School last month I deliberately spent some time asking the year group to be considerate of others whilst they were at home; to try to put themselves in other people's shoes and to recognise what those people might be dealing with. This included having consideration for their siblings, their parents and their grandparents.

I asked those who had birthdays not to have the same expectations as they might do normally, and we encouraged them to keep in contact with friends whilst trying to slip into something of a routine each day. We now need them to carry on with this approach and create a new routine that will be good for them and, hopefully, assist the smooth running of your household. I will be reminding them of all of these things this week.

I have heard a few really happy accounts of how children have found other interests in this time out and we will be encouraging our students to try new things and broaden their horizons. I'm sure that this is something you may well have been trying at home and where that's the case we must find a way to encourage its continuation.

Naturally, we hope that the current situation will soon be over and that we can return to normality, but whilst we are away from the Park please could I ask for your help in keeping your children focused on the Guided Distance Learning Programme. If they are unwell, do please let us know as you would with a normal school day by emailing absence@leightonpark.com and copying in their tutor and myself so that allowances can be made.

Of course, the Guided Distance Learning Programme will not be without its own challenges. I have made reference to the difficulties you may face at home, and I would also urge you to appreciate that many of our staff are in a position of having to look after their own children whilst delivering their lessons.

In returning to a full timetable for Year 9 the day will be busy and productive. This offers greater opportunities for contact with teaching staff and tutors. In addition to the timetabled lessons there will be opportunities for activities and other project work and tutors will be endeavouring to get in touch to see how things are going for all students.


A copy of the slightly adjusted timetable for lessons and the school day is attached.

Every family will have had slightly different experiences over the last four weeks and, as such, may well have faced different challenges. As we begin this new term I am keen for us to be of help and support to your children at all times. As before, the tutor will remain as the first point of contact, but please do get in touch with me or your housemaster/mistress at any time if you feel a situation warrants it. In many respects, this is no different to our normal arrangements, but with the isolation we are experiencing I just wanted you to know that we are here to help as and when needed.

Please do copy me in on correspondence to tutors and to subject teachers so that I can support the best outcome for your child. If you feel the need to discuss something with me please send me an email and I will call you back at my earliest convenience. My email address is marksimmons@leightonpark.com.

Please take good care and stay safe!

With very best wishes

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

Mark

SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS TIMETABLE – SUMMER TERM 2020

8.00 – 8.25 am	Check google classrooms to clarify work and expectations for the day, especially those lessons with live google meets.
8.30 – 9.15 am	Period 1
9.15 – 9.30 am	Break
9.30 – 10.15 am	Period 2
10.15 – 10.30 am	Break
10.30 – 10.50 am	Mondays – free, Tuesdays and Fridays – tutor time Wednesdays week 1 – House collects Wednesdays week 2 – Year group collects Thursdays – e-collects and reflection Information for these will be posted on google classroom and students will be informed of when these include google meet in the same way as they are for lessons
10.50 – 11.20 am	Break
11.20 – 12.05 pm	Period 3
12.05-12.20 pm	Break
12.20 – 1.05 pm	Period 4
1.05 – 2.15 pm	Lunch
2.20 – 3.05 pm	Period 5
3.05 – 3.20 pm	Break
3.20 – 4.05 pm	Period 6
4.05 pm onwards	Co-Curricular activities according to individual choices made through the Co-Curricular communications OR LP@Home activities/projects

Each lesson 45 mins with breaks built into timetable to give students rest time away from screens.