



LEIGHTON PARK
FOUNDED 1890

10th June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this finds you well and that Guided Distance Learning is going well.

I am writing to you to explain a change we are making to our online learning policy for students to sustain the momentum of online learning through the last few weeks before the summer break.

For the remainder of the academic year, we would like to encourage students to turn on their webcams when they are participating in Google Meet lessons.

The reason we would like students to turn their cameras on is that we feel that having cameras on significantly improves their learning: it enables teachers to support students more effectively to make progress in Google Meet lessons. We hope that having student cameras on will encourage them to participate fully in activities and discussions. During this time of relative isolation, we also feel that seeing their teacher and classmates' faces and reactions during class is valuable. Our Leighton Park community is at the heart of everything we do as a school, and having student webcams on during Google Meet lessons is one way of sustaining this community during this unusual period.

This will also enable us to monitor student engagement more closely - at present, with students often tending to turn their cameras off, it can be difficult for teachers to gauge whether students are following the lesson attentively.

Having cameras on will be encouraged, but not required. Your support and encouragement in this endeavour would be very much appreciated.

To have their webcams on, students will need to make sure:

- They are dressed appropriately for lessons.
- They are working in an appropriate location. If they need to work in their bedrooms, they should make sure nothing inappropriate is in view. They must not be in bed!

- They abide by the high standards of behaviour we always expect of Leighton Park students - the cameras should aid your learning, not become a distraction.
- They turn off their camera if asked to by the teacher, or if there is a sensible reason to do so.

As we reach the last few weeks of the academic year, we hope that the need to get out of bed, to be dressed and to be 'ready' for lessons may also prove helpful in sustaining students' engagement and motivation, which has been commendable in so many ways up to now.

We hope you will agree that it is the right decision to continue to evolve our Guided Distance Learning policies, in response to our experience in online lessons, in order to make sure that students' learning experience is of the highest possible standard.

If you have any queries or suggestions, I would welcome your feedback and responses, so please do get in touch.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Powlesland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jenny Powlesland