



Sandy Lane
Blackdown
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 6RD
T: 01926 338711
E: nls@northleamington.co.uk
www.northleamington.co.uk

28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we close the term here at North Leamington School, I wanted to write to wish you all a lovely break, thank you for your continued efforts, reflect on achievements this term and provide some updates for students' return next term.

Students in Year 11 & 13 have now finished, although they are still very welcome on site for various opportunities in the summer term in our efforts to support next step destinations. Students have received information via VT about the packages of support available should any wish to be involved, it is voluntary and bespoke, as all are now preparing to embark on different paths next year. Please see attached document with further detail of Year 11 opportunities next term. It was absolutely lovely to see both year groups leave in such a positive fashion, and well deserved – one of the greatest disappointments for students and staff last year was not having the ability to close the year down and say goodbye properly - so I am thrilled our students have been able to do so this term.

We continue to make attempts to get back to a better school experience for our students next term in a safe and controlled manner in line with national guidance – students have received year group specific detail during VT of changes next term based on their thoughts and experiences from the last 18 months. Firstly, we have made some adjustments to the entrance and exit points to the school. Students have told us that they prefer this split year group entry so that will remain in place. Students have missed the use of the Learning Resource Centre (Library) and the opportunity to be taught in different classrooms and the use of specialist spaces. Therefore, both of these will be in operation after the break in a controlled way and students are being issued with updated timetables. All year groups will now be on site slightly earlier to ensure lesson 1 starts on time, we have dropped a staggered break as we will have fewer students on site which will greatly support the continuity of learning in the morning. All will finish at 3:15pm – getting back now to a full delivery of five one hour lessons and VT daily.

A number of parents and students have also suggested that it would be useful for us to revisit our PSHE curriculum in light of some content which has been missed through Alternative Curriculum Days. Ms Jones is in the process of reviewing this with students and will be inviting parents to review our draft curriculum and attend a parents' forum over the next half term to feedback your thoughts.

In light of our curriculum review, we have made the decision to move towards a year group form tutor structure from September. As you will know, we are incredibly proud of our VT and College system. However, having listened to students carefully about the benefits of working in a year group model this year and the bespoke opportunities it brings, we have made the decision to remain in a year group tutor group structure moving forward. Our school will still retain a College structure, and so will our College Leaders. However, their role as Heads of Year will continue in supporting a year

group focus, to continue with the differing support needs of each year group. We are passionate about keeping College opportunities, mentoring, leadership and all of the benefits of cross year group working and more information will be given to parents and students as to how this will look from September.

I would like to publicly thank the staff here at North Leamington School. Whilst it was absolutely the right call to invest in a Teacher Assessed grading system this year, after the debacle of last year's grades being awarded from a flawed algorithm, it has come with an added workload pressure to all colleagues here at the school – who have still been required to fulfil normal duties as well as completing the TAG and QTAG process. Whilst much is still to do, I want to thank them for all their efforts.

Lastly, as is now routine, the government have requested that staff and students continue with asymptomatic testing throughout the holiday to help prevent the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) and especially before return to school. We will have contact tracing arrangements in place for the first 2 days of the half term – we will contact relevant parties if notified of a positive test result. Parents and carers only need to inform the school of a positive case where they developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. Parents must report the results of all lateral flow testing [here](#). Where symptoms or a positive home lateral flow test occurred more than 48 hours from last being school, staff, students, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Further information about COVID, including risk assessments, can be found on the [school website](#).

It has been great to start to meet and communicate with our parent body – I look forward to meeting many more of you next term and over the coming years.

Have a great break.

Mike Lowdell

Head Teacher