



October 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers

Message from the Principal

It has been a very busy half term at Laisterdyke Leadership Academy.

We have been delighted to meet our new Year 7 pupils who have settled in well and are now truly a part of our academy. It was a pleasure to meet so many of the Year 7 parents/carers at our settling in evening earlier this month.

As you may be aware, we had a Section 8 Ofsted Inspection this week. This is an unannounced inspection. I am happy to announce that this inspection had a positive outcome, and I will share the report with you when I receive it.

Our intervention sessions for Year 11 pupils have started and are running very successfully. Thank you to all parents/carers for your support in ensuring these sessions are well attended, and working with us to try to achieve the best possible results for your child.

As you are aware, we have an academy target for all pupils to achieve 97% attendance. Well done to the 316 pupils who have been rewarded this week for achieving 100% attendance since September.

I look forward to meeting more of you as the term progresses.

Changes in Leadership:

We are pleased to announce the following changes to strengthen our senior leadership team, which came into effect this term :

Acting Vice Principal – Mr Francis

Mr Francis is responsible for behaviour, attendance and primary transition. He is also a member of our Safeguarding team.

Acting Vice Principal – Mr Khan

Mr Khan is responsible for measuring improvements in our pupils' academic performance, producing school reports to show your child's progress and targets, and ensuring intervention classes are targeted appropriately.

Trust Deployed Senior Leader - Assistant Principal – Mrs Samuel

Mrs Samuel is responsible for our PHSCE and Tutorial programmes as well as supporting the mental health and well-being of our pupils. She is part of our Safeguarding team.

Trust Deployed Senior Leader - Assistant Principal – Mr Coles

Mr Coles is responsible for developing and improving the teaching and learning in the academy.

We have also recruited a number of new teachers into the academy. We are pleased to welcome:

Mr Hunt, Miss Ali and Mrs Salter into the History department

Miss Martin into the French department

Miss Mushtaq into Health and Social Care,



Mr Pang into the English Faculty and Mr Saqib into the Maths Faculty.

We would also like to congratulate some of our existing staff members on securing new posts within the academy. Mrs Zaccardelli is now our Safeguarding Manager, Mr Smith is our Estates Manager, and Mrs Hafeez will be our new Finance Officer after half term.

Parents'/Carers' Handbook

We are finalising a handbook containing guidance for parents and carers on how you can support your child in their education, how to contact the academy and who the best person to contact will be. We hope to issue this early in the next half term.

In the table below is the contact information for our senior leadership team

Main Contacts

Name	Role	Email address
Karen Jones	Principal	karen.jonesLLA@laisterdyke.staracademies.org
Lee Francis	Acting Vice Principal Behaviour and admission Year 7	lee.francis@laisterdyke.staracademies.org
Hafeez Khan	Acting Vice Principal Reports, progress and targets Year 11	hafeez.khan@laisterdyke.staracademies.org
Shohab Ali	Assistant Principal Personal development Year 9	shohab.ali@laisterdyke.staracademies.org
Jane Shaw	Assistant Principal Inclusion, safeguarding	jane.shaw@laisterdyke.staracademies.org
Tait Coles	Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning Year 10	tait.coles@staracademies.org
Danielle Samuel	Assistant Principal Assessment and Development Year 8 Year 13	danielle.samuel@staracademies.org

Parent Pay/Paying for school meals

In line with Star policy, we are moving towards becoming a cashless academy. This will improve the safety and security of your child, and will also mean you can be confident that money you have paid is being used as you intended.

Cash payments will no longer be accepted for school meals or for visits. Payment can be made through Parent Pay for these items.

We have recently re-issued Parent Pay login details to all parents. Please contact the main office if you are still having any issues with Parent Pay.

Governing Body

Information about our governing body can be found on the link provided below

<https://www.laisterdykeleadershipacademy.com/about/governance/>. We have a vacancy available for a parent governor, and the application process will be opening shortly.

Academy Start Time

Can we please remind all parents that the Academy day begins at 8:20 am. Pupils must arrive to the academy ready to start lessons at 8:20am – if a child is late they will receive a 1 hour detention.

Well done to those pupils who have achieved our Academy target of 97% attendance for this Half Term. Over the course of the academic year, pupils with fewer than 6 days (or 12 sessions) absence will achieve this target. All pupils should aim to attend the academy as much as possible.

There are 365 days in a year, 190 days in a school year this leaves 175 days for holidays, shopping, birthday treats and non-urgent medical appointments. If your child misses school it has an ongoing impact upon their education.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent days	Equivalent weeks	Equivalent lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons

Teaching and Learning at Laisterdyke

At Laisterdyke Leadership Academy our goal is for all of our staff to have high expectations, aspirations and a spirit of excellence. We have been working hard this half term looking at how we assess learning in the and outside of the classroom.

By assessing learning our pupils will improve their retention and memory of knowledge and skills. By assessing learning our teachers will also be able to adapt and amend learning accordingly based on what pupils know or don't know.

The regular setting of thoughtful, challenging and differentiated homework is essential for our pupils to reach their full potential. Homework will now also be set on a regular basis (our Homework schedule appears on our Website), again as a way to assess learning.

In order for our pupils to exceed in their learning it is essential that they are ready and engaged to learn in every lessons. Please can we ensure that your child is constantly reminded of why education is so important to them and that they are expected to:

- Arrive to **every** lesson on time
- Be fully equipped for **every** lesson
- Be 100% focussed in **every** lessons
- Have a desire to do well and learn in **every** lesson

Exams Update

Year 11 Mock Exams will run from 25th November to 6th December 2019. Pupils will sit mock exams in all examinable subjects. Please encourage your child to revise and take these exams seriously – they will influence future setting and entry tiers for exams, which can have an impact on the final grades which your child can achieve next summer.

The following Public Exams will take place during the next half term for our Year 13 pupils

Summary Examination Timetable Season : November 2019							
Date	Start Time	Room	Board	Qualification	Component Code	Component Title	Length
04/11/2019	9:00AM	Meeting Room 3	AQA	GCSE	8700/1	English Language Paper 1	105
05/11/2019	9:00AM	Meeting Room 3	EDEXL/GCSE	GCSE	1MA1 1F	Non Calculator (F)	90

06/11/2019	9:00AM	Meeting Room 3	AQA	GCSE	8700/2	English Language Paper 2	105
07/11/2019	9:00AM	Meeting Room 3	EDEXL/GCSE	GCSE	1MA1 2F	Calculator (F)	90
11/11/2019	1:30PM	Meeting Room 3	EDEXL/GCSE	GCSE	1MA1 3F	Calculator (F)	90

Literacy in the Academy

We are very pleased to announce that our library is now open and pupils are borrowing books. Star Academies have invested in a large number of new books for pupils of all reading abilities.

Book boxes have been issued for all form rooms, so that pupils can read at tutor time.

We have been focussing on spelling this term, ensuring that all pupils can spell the essential words they need to progress in their education.

Encouraging your child to read is one of the best ways you can help their education. Reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at the academy than their social or economic background.

Congratulations!

Some of our Year 8-11 pupils are going to become published authors! 140 of our pupils entered the Young Writers' *Survival Sagas: Mission Chaos* competition, with the prize being to have their mini-sagas published in a book. 116 of our pupils' mini sagas have been selected for publication. Special thanks to Miss Nessa for organising and encouraging our pupils to enter this competition. We look forward to reading their stories, and many more works by them in the future.

Supporting our STAR Charities

As you are all aware, our Star Values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect underpin everything we do here at Laisterdyke. Our Star Communities have each nominated a local or national charity to support and fundraise for this year. The selected charities are:

- Service - **Sharing Voices**, which is a community development mental health organisation actively supporting and working with diverse minority communities of Bradford.
- Teamwork- **British Heart Foundation**, who raise money to research cures and treatments for heart disease.
- Ambition – **Bradford Nightstop**, who provide emergency accommodation for young local people who have nowhere to spend the night.
- Respect- **Cancer Support**, who provide practical and emotional support for people whose lives have been affected by cancer.

Leadership Opportunities

Our Head Boy and Head Girl, and Student Council, have been selected for this academic year. Congratulations to Hamza Amir and Malaika Asim from Year 11, our Head Boy and Head Girl.

Our Student Council members had to go through a rigorous application and interview process during which they showed immense resilience, maturity and innovation as they gave their ideas on how to improve pupil life at the academy and how they would seek to implement these ideas. This process will help to prepare them for applications for Sixth Form, University and future careers.

Lunchtime

To help alleviate the lunchtime rush we are pleased to announce that after the half-term break we will have a third serving counter open for our pupils to use.

Mobile Phones

Pupils are not permitted to bring a mobile phone to the academy. If you feel that it is imperative for your child to have a mobile phone for safeguarding purposes (e.g. if you live far away from the academy and wish to check that your child is getting home safely), you must contact the academy to obtain permission before allowing your child to bring in their phone. In the event that permission is granted, phones must be handed in at reception at the start of the day and picked up at the end of the day (and your child must sign a log to confirm drop off and safe receipt of the phone). While the phone is in your child's possession, your child is not allowed to take pictures or make recordings in the academy, on the school bus, or while wearing their school uniform. Pupils found to be breaking these rules will face the following sanctions:

- Pastoral detention
- The confiscation of their phone, which must be collected by their parents
- A meeting with their parents
- A temporary ban from bringing their phone into the academy (repeated offences will result in a permanent ban and the pupil being sent to the exclusion room)

Safeguarding our Pupils

As you are all aware, safeguarding our pupils is always a priority here at Laisterdyke. Our Safeguarding lead is Miss Shaw, who is supported by our safeguarding team, Mr Francis, Mrs Samuel and Mrs Zaccardelli – if you have any concerns about any of our pupils please do not hesitate to contact them.

We have set up a secure email address – **lla-anti-bullying@laisterdyke.staracademies.org** which parents and pupils can contact if they have any concerns about bullying or safeguarding issues. We also have a number available for pupils to text or phone if they have any concerns – 07526 141961.

Every staff member in the academy has regular safeguarding training, and all are available to listen to any concerns which a child may have.

During school holidays, there may be occasions when the academy is not open, and you are unable to contact our safeguarding team. In that instance, please contact the following

- During office hours call Children's Social Care Initial Contact Point - **01274 435600** - (8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday)
- At all other times, Social Services Emergency Duty Team - **01274 431010**
- If you have reason to believe that a child is at **immediate risk of harm**, contact the police on **999**

Remember – when safeguarding children, don't think "What if I'm wrong" – think "What if I'm right"

Visits

This half term we have been on a number of visits, year 11 pupils enjoyed a geography field trip to Hornsea and Mappleton – the visit supported their GCSE studies.

Post 16 pupils attended a careers carousel in Shipley, where they were given the opportunity to explore and consider career opportunities once they leave the academy. The pupils were commended for their professional appearance and fantastic attitude – they were a credit to our Academy.

We invited The Riot Act back into the academy to visit our pupils in Year 7 to not only speak about but demonstrate the importance of road safety. All the pupils left the presentation more educated and informed about the dangers on the road.

Keep us up to date

We send out important information by text message and post, and may sometimes try to contact you by phone if, for example, your child is unwell. If you have recently moved house, or changed your phone number, or have a different work number, or your additional emergency contacts have changed, please ensure you keep us updated with your current contact details.

Parking

If you must bring a car to collect your child from the academy, please park considerately, for the safety of all our pupils and their families. Parents/ carers are not permitted to park inside the academy gates except by prior arrangement in exceptional circumstances. You will have noticed there are sometimes PCSOs outside the academy gates at the end of the day, monitoring parking. Please follow their advice, as they may prosecute for illegal parking.

Dates for your Diary

Return to the academy after half-term break	04 th November
Post 16 Resit English and Maths Exams	04 th November – 11 th November
Year 11 Parents Evening	13 th November
Year 11 Mock Exams	25 th November – 6 th December
Christmas Holidays begin	20 th December
Return to the academy after Christmas Holidays	06 th January
Year 10 Parents Evening	22 nd January

Regards,

Karen Jones

Principal