

14th July 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

As the end of a very unusual and unprecedented school year draws to a close it also brings to an end my first year as Principal of The County High School, Leftwich. On starting the year, I was looking forward to many 'wow moments' and it has certainly delivered. Our school twitter feed (@leftwichhigh) illustrates many of these fantastic moments and events.

I was also realistic at the start of the year and expected some challenges throughout it. However, obviously, I did not expect the year to change course so dramatically at the end of March. We have innovated, adapted and adopted to so many new ways of working and we have also worked proactively to prepare for changes in advance of them happening. I have tried to ensure we have communicated our plans and the rationale for them, with parents/carers throughout and I would like to thank the many parents/carers who have sent messages of support over the last four months.

I am immensely proud of all that we have achieved this year. I challenged my colleagues at the start of the year to develop students' knowledge and skills, character and creativity and imagination and they rose to this challenge, whether that be in standard lessons during the first half of the year or in far from standard lessons during the second half of the year. Throughout the entire year I have felt the backing of my colleagues in striving to achieve this objective and supporting me in the implementation of it and in the development of our new ways of working. We have, as a team, been striving, relentlessly to achieve excellence. Excellence in academic achievements, excellence in pastoral care and excellence in personal development of students and colleagues.

I would like to say farewell, good luck for the future and thank you to a number of colleagues who will be leaving us at the end of this week. Dr Short, teacher of Science is taking up a post at The Grange in September. Dr Short has established himself as a caring Tutor and a knowledgeable Science teacher, during his time at the school. Dr Short's Tutor Group will be led by Mr Mellor, a new Science teacher joining us from September. Mrs Saunders is moving onto a career outside of teaching. Mrs Saunder's was a member of our excellent English department and supported enrichment activities, including the BBC Young Reporter project. Mrs Saunder's Tutor Group will initially be led by Miss Thomas from September. Miss Fullwood, Design and Technology (D&T) teacher is taking up a post at Upton High School having worked in the D&T and Art departments for 4 years. Since joining the school, Miss Fullwood quickly established herself as a key member of the D&T Team and a caring and compassionate tutor. Working in the Art department also demonstrated Miss Fullwood's adaptability. Miss Fullwood's Tutor Group will be led by Mrs Stevenson from September. Mrs Daly, Assistant Educational Support Worker is taking up a post at Oakfield School having worked as part of the Pastoral Team for 6 years. Mrs Daly has supported countless students with her calm and friendly



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Granville Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8EZ. Tel 01606 333 300
Email: admin@leftwichhigh.com www.leftwichhigh.com

Principal Mr M Snelson BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

manner. Plans are in place to support the students Mrs Daly worked with and these plans will be communicated accordingly.

After nearly 30 years at The County High School, Leftwich, Mrs Steele has decided the time is right to retire. Mrs Steele joined the school in the January of 1990 and has been successful in a number of roles, including: teacher of Geography and latterly Religious Studies; a second in department; a temporary Assistant Head Teacher and for a number of years Head of Year 7, which included the vital role of ensuring students transition from Primary School to Secondary school was as smooth as possible.

Mrs Steele brought her intellect, passion, skill, enthusiasm and sense of humour to every role she fulfilled. I'm sure many members of The County High School, Leftwich community past and present have their own memories of Mrs Steele. Mrs Steele had a profound and impactful effect on her colleagues, her students and on their families. Thank you Mrs Steele. Enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Priority Students

Friday 17th July will see the last day of our Priority Students Provision. We will not be able to offer this provision over the Summer holidays. Thank you to all my colleagues who have supported this over the 17 weeks. In particular, the colleagues who were First Aiders during the end of the Spring term and first half of the Summer term and to the Learning Support department who have facilitated the provision so thoughtfully during the second half of the Summer term. Thank you and well done to all the students who attended and embraced the opportunity.

Year 11 Results Day - Thursday 20th August 2020

As stated in my letter dated the 8th July, I am delighted to invite Year 11 students and their parents/carers to our Results Day on Thursday 20th August 2020. The event will be held from 09:30, outside, on the patioed area outside of the Science rooms, next to the back of the Gym (there will be signage on the day). At the event, students will be able to collect their GCSE/BTEC/OCR Nationals results and their Year Book for those who have ordered one. Cold refreshments will be available and photos will be taken for those who consent. We want to make the event a celebration of everything our Year 11 students have achieved.

Whilst we want to ensure that the event is a celebration, obviously, we need to ensure the event is as safe as possible, therefore, we do ask that all visitors maintain social distancing, keeping 2 metres apart, wherever possible. Hand sanitisers and tissues will be available. We will also need to collect the contact details of one person from each household who attends.

September 2020

Plans for September, were communicated in a letter on 10th July and are summarised below. Please do continue to look out for InTouch messages over the summer. If guidance changes or is updated, we will need to consider the implications carefully and then communicate any changes accordingly.

We are adhering to updated guidelines from Public Health England and the Department for Education and continue to listen, take advice and pay close attention to all the information available to us. Plans for September will stay under continuous review and will evolve during the new academic year as guidance changes. Our risk assessments are being updated following the updated guidance.

Our current plans for September are summarised below:

- **Year 7 students will join us on Wednesday 2nd September**
- **Students from all year groups will attend school from Thursday 3rd September**
- **The start of the day and the end of the day times will be staggered**

- Students will use dedicated year group entrances and exits as summarised in the table below
- All students will follow a standard timetable and will follow all their subjects from September
- All students will stay, as much as possible, in year group zones of the school in their year group bubbles
- All students will have specialist teachers for their subjects, wherever possible
- Year 10 and Year 11 students will have lessons in specialist rooms, where required, with the exception of Science, which will be delivered in standard classrooms
- Year 7, 8 and 9 will have lessons in standard classrooms, delivered primarily by specialist teachers. Therefore, the content of the curriculum will be adapted accordingly
- PE lessons will continue, with an appropriate curriculum and students will be required to attend school in their PE kit on the days they have PE and they will remain in the kit for the duration of the day
- Each year group will have their own area for break and lunchtime and food will be available to purchase in these areas
- Wherever possible, we would encourage students to bring their own packed lunch and enough drink to last them for the day

	Entrance and Exit	Start of Day	End of Day Time
Year 7	Main Office	08:30 – Students proceed to Tutor Group Room	15:00
Year 8	Service Drive	08:40 – Students proceed to Tutor Group Room	15:10
Year 9	Student Entrance	08:50 – Students proceed to Tutor Group Room	15:20
Year 10	PE Door	09:00 – Students to proceed to Period 1 Teaching Room	15:30
Year 11	A15 Door	09:15 – Students to proceed to Period 1 Teaching Room	15:40

- Timetables with rooms will be sent home on Tuesday 1st September via InTouch and will be provided to students on their first day
- Students will be directed to their Tutor Room/Period 1 room on their first day
- Students will continue to have a Tutor Time session either at the start or the end of the day
- Students must always use the entrances and exit shown above, at the start of the day, for break and lunch and at the end of the day, with the exception of an emergency evacuation
- We will be open from 07:30 to accommodate students who choose to travel outside of peak times
- School will remain open for students until 16:30
- Students travelling by public transport must follow the guidelines, regarding the wearing of a mask

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers#face-coverings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering>

An example of the year group zones are shown on the table below - *please note this is for illustrative purposes and the rooming below is subject to change:*

Year 7 Zone	Year 8 Zone	Year 9 Zone	Year 10 Zone	Year 11 Zone
B2	A14	B11A	A3	B19
B3	A15	B13	A4	B20
B6	A18	B14	Fitness Studio	B21
B8	A19	B15	A8	B22
B9	A21	B15A	A9	B23
B10	A22	B16	A12	B24
B11	A23	C4	A13	B25
	A24		C1	B26

Our New Ways of Working

Our evolving risk assessments, which are being created in conjunction with the Sir John Brunner Foundation and following all the guidelines from the Department for Education, Public Health England and various unions and associations, are being used to generate what we are describing as updated '*new ways of working*'. These have been developed and have evolved utilising the Department for Education's 9 system control measures, designed to keep us all as safe as possible. These are split into two sections: Prevention and Response to any Infection. **It is every member of The County High School, Leftwich community's responsibility to ensure the school stays as safe as possible by following these system controls.**

Prevention	Response to any infection
1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school	7. Engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
2. Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual	8. Manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach	9. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice
4. Introduce enhanced cleaning , including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach	
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible	
6. Where necessary, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)	

All colleagues and students will be fully inducted into our new ways of working in September.

We will continue to expect students to:

- **Be ready to learn**
- **Be respectful and safe**
- **Embrace opportunities**

Summer Holidays 2020

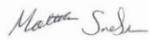
Students are encouraged to continue to seek any support they may need from the many organisations signposted on our dedicated Coronavirus Guidance and Support webpage. The page brings together links to support, including mental health and well-being and online safety guidance.

www.leftwichhigh.com/news/news_coronavirus_guidance_support_2020.html.

We will continue to plan for all of our students return with anticipation and excitement. I am really looking forward to seeing all students once more in The County High School, Leftwich ready to achieve excellence in all they do. I wish all our students and their families an enjoyable and safe summer, encouraging all students to balance their time between relaxing, exercising, having fun and maintaining some home learning over the 6 week break so that on our return in September they are ready to learn, thrive and flourish at The County High School, Leftwich.

Please continue to look after yourselves and each other and have a great summer,

Mr Snelson



Principal