

Issue 8

Covid-19 Newsletter

Welcome

Good afternoon,

In these strange and difficult times, I intend to send a weekly newsletter to share any updates that I have received from the government, update you on the situation at school and also support in your efforts to maintain your children's learning and also their (and yours!) health and wellbeing.

I have written some thoughts regarding the potential return to some form of schooling for Year 10 on the next page.

Thank you to those of you who have responded so positively to the phone calls made by tutors over the last week. As the 'lockdown' continues for many of us, I am very conscious of how important this contact is and it is something that we aim to do more of and would ask again, that you also ensure that your son or daughter are checking their school emails.

As you now know, school is only open every day to any students that fall into these two categories:

- Students whose parents are Key Workers this list is widely available and has been sent out. Students should only attend school if no other care is possible. Home remains the safest place.
- 2. Students who have been **contacted by the school** because they fall into the vulnerable category.

I would ask that you contact us if you intend to send your child into school because they fall into one of these two categories and they have not been coming in already. This way we will be better prepared for any students that we have.

Reception is now only staffed every day between 8am-11 am.

All relevant resources, links and updates are on the school website.

Please feel able to email at any point if you have any queries and I will respond as quickly as I am able.

c.thomas@lhea.org.uk



Free School Meals

The system now seems to be working more quickly but please, as ever, get in touch if you have any concerns.

The email address for parents and carers, who are experiencing difficulties is:

 $\frac{frees chool meal sparents carers@edenr}{ed.com}$

I also understand that for some parents and carers, these are very challenging times financially and you may now wonder if you are eligible for Free School Meals after a change in your circumstances.

Click here to check whether you are eligible for Free School Meals and here to fill in the online application form.

RE: Reopening of LHEA to some students

Many of you will have watched the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday evening and then heard more about the plans for the reopening of Secondary schools to **some students**.

At this point in time, the Government have said they would like us 'to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 students who are due to take key exams next year'. It is not yet clear what this means and what expectations will be in terms of how schools can manage this. It is also dependent on the current trend of a decline in cases of the virus continuing. At the moment, I am working hard with my leadership team to plan the arrangements for students in Year 10 to come into school at specific times or on specific days to work with some teachers.

Schools are still waiting on a range of detailed guidance to allow us to prepare for this. Once we have that I will be reviewing it with colleagues here to see how we can apply it. This is going to take some time and I will not be allowing more students to come into the school until we are confident we can do it safely and appropriately for the staff and students affected.

For the time being, what this means is that students in Year 10 must continue to work from home, accessing the learning materials supplied by their teachers and making email contact with us if they have any queries.

This does not mean that Year 10 students return to school after the half-term holiday. We will make further contact with parents of students in Years 10 when we are ready to begin reopening to some students.

For students in Years 7, 8 and 9 it does not look like they will be returning to school until after the summer holiday. This means they must continue to complete the work set online in the same way as they have been asked to. We are currently working with other schools in Slough to create some transition work for students in Year 11, to aid their preparation for moving into Year 12.

I realise that many of you will have questions about this, as I do and I will keep you as informed as I can about the next steps. In the meantime thank you for continuing to support your child with their studies.

Chris Thomas Headteacher

How to support home learning



Show My Homework and Remote Learning

Can I remind you that staff are not necessarily setting work for individual lessons. At times they may set a longer piece of work, designed to last for the equivalent of several lessons.

As Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy closes for what is likely to be a lengthy period of time, it is important that your son/daughter is able to continue learning at home (remote learning). Show My Homework (SMHW) is a simple online programme where teachers upload details of learning activities and resources that should be completed at home. All students at LHEA have an account with SMHW and are encouraged to view this site on a daily basis.

Parents/carers have also been invited to set up an account.

The mobile app and notifications ensure parents/carers always know what homework their child has and when it's due.

Once logged in, the best way to view your child's homework is to click on the "calendar" block. Clicking on a coloured bar reveals the detailed description of the activity and when it is due. The SMHW app is available to download from Apple and Google.

- Open the app and type in "Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy"
- Type in your email/username and password.
- You will be taken to your child's To-do List

If any parent/carer needs help with setting up accounts, or if any student has either forgotten their password or has been experiencing trouble logging in, please contact Mr Arnold using l.arnold@lhea.org.uk

Any student who is not able to access online resources from home can come into school and collect paper copies of work which are all available in reception, arranged by Year group.

I appreciate that this will be a very strange time when it comes to keeping young people motivated and interested in school work. It will be very easy for it to feel like school has finished – but it hasn't and it is so important that they keep actively learning and working and developing their skills and knowledge.

This can be done in many ways and the following page gives some general advice that you might find helpful.

Government laptop scheme

You may have read in the media or heard about this on the news. It is aimed at a very small group of students who the government have identified. We do not expect to receive the laptops until the end of May and will be in contact if you have been identified as being eligible. Sadly they are not a resource which can be requested.

Be realistic about what you can do

- > You're not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school.

 Simply providing your children with some structure will help
- > Share the load if there are 2 parents at home. Split the day into 2-3 hour slots and take turns so you can do your own work
- > Take care of your own health and wellbeing. This will be new for your entire household, so give it time to settle.

Keep to a timetable wherever possible

- > Create and stick to a routine if you can. This is what children are used to. For example, eat breakfast at the same time and make sure they're dressed before starting the 'school' day avoid staying in pyjamas!
- Involve your children in setting the timetable where possible.
- > Check in with your children and try to keep to the timetable, but be flexible. If a task/activity is going well or they want more time, let it extend where possible
- If you have more than 1 child at home, consider combining their timetables. For example, they might exercise and do maths together
- Designate a working space if possible, and at the end of the day have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over
- > Stick the timetable up on the wall so everyone knows what they should be doing when
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life

Make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day

- > Start each morning with a PE lesson at 9am with Joe Wicks
- If you have a garden, use it regularly. If you don't, try to get out once a day

Other activities to keep children engaged throughout the day

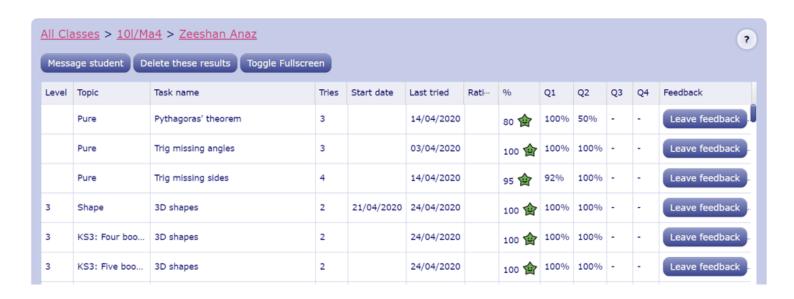
- Where you have more freedom in the timetable, make time for other activities.
- > Get your children to write postcards to their grandparents or to pen pals
- Ask grandparents to listen to your children read on FaceTime (or ask grandparents to read to younger children)
- > Give them chores to do so they feel more responsible about the daily routine at home
- > Ask them to **help you cook** and bake
- Accept that they'll probably watch more TV/spend time on their phone that's ok but you might want to set/agree some screen time limits

More examples of the great work being produced at home by our students

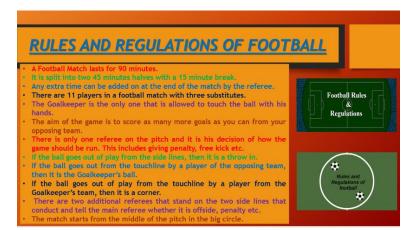
It is unsurprising that a great deal of recent media coverage has concentrated on the delivery of home learning. All the evidence agrees that effective home learning comes down to the quality of the learning resources provided, how they are made, how they are ordered (sequenced) and how clearly they are explained by the teacher. The teachers at LHEA are continually collaborating with each other to share ideas and develop materials to help make the learning experience of all our students a successful one.

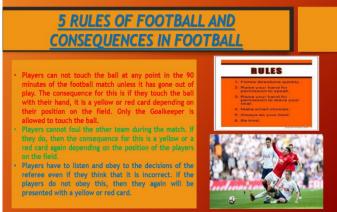
The work submitted by our students continues to be extraordinary given the challenging situation. Thank you again to all the parents and carers for everything you are doing to support your children with their home learning journey.

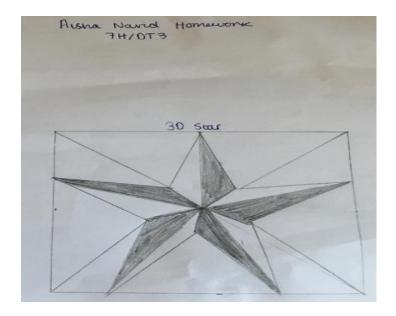
Zeeshan Anaz, in Year 10, has been working very hard with tasks on MyMaths and is making great progress.



Muneeb Rahman, in Year 9, put a great deal of effort into researching the consequences of the various rules and regulations of his favourite sport – football!







Aisha Navid, in Year 7, enjoyed her design and technology task to create a 3D shape and then to find out how a 3D printer operates.