

Headteacher's Summer Newsletter - July 2021

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter and my final update of this school year. It gives me great pleasure to extend this welcome to the parents of our Year 7 students who will join our Lathom family in September. We are so looking forward to you starting with us.

Thank you

As we reach the end of term I want to take the opportunity to say an enormous thank you for your support during this school year. It has brought so many challenges and difficult times for all of us, both in school and at home, and your messages of thanks, support and good wishes have meant a great deal to everyone at school.

After the many periods of lockdown and remote learning, it has been so lovely to have such a busy school again. During the summer term, our students have had full access to all of their subjects including practical work, a packed programme of extra-curricular activities and many additional opportunities including PROUD days, Careers events, Sports Day and even some trips out. These visits have included a rewards trip to Liverpool, rock climbing at Hothersall Lodge and an amazing experience at the National Science Summer School, with Professor Brian Cox, recently hosted at West Lancashire College.

There has been lots of celebration too with our PROUD awards given out in May and our Subject Awards being given out this week. Students have also had the opportunity to win some amazing prizes and rewards, through the Accelerated Reader scheme, for pushing themselves with their reading, – such a vital skill to develop especially after so much time away from school this year. Our Attendance Reward Scheme has also been back up and running to promote good attendance to school and to recognise where students improve their attendance, particularly in the face of adversity at the current time. We sincerely hope that when we return in September we will be able to deliver a really packed programme of activities, experiences and rewards to support our students in their learning and personal development, particularly given how much they have missed out on in the last eighteen months.

Staffing Update

As we come to the end of the year, I want to let you know about some staff changes for September. At the end of term we say goodbye to Miss Liston, Mrs Bodell, Mrs Adcock and Mrs Leyland. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to them all for their hard work and contribution to our school community during their time at Lathom and wish them every success and happiness for the future. I would like to reserve a special mention for Mrs Leyland who has served this school community and our families for an impressive 45 years! We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

I am delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our team for the school year. Mr Mayor is joining us teacher of Humanities and Mrs Ellis as our Technician for the Design Technology department. We also have some staff taking on new roles from September including within our Pastoral Support Teams. Here are the teams for your information:

	<u>Head of Year</u>	<u>Assistant Head of Year</u>
Year 7	Miss Sullivan	Mrs Connolly
Year 8	Mrs Sefton-Miles	Mr Coles
Year 9	Mr Sykes	Mrs Newnes
Year 10	Mr Sheen	Mrs Grice
Year 11	Miss Forster	Mrs McCarthy

Return to school in September 2021

Following the Government announcement on 6 July, we have had to make some changes to the start of term. This is to ensure that all students can complete two Lateral Flow tests under staff supervision, as per the guidance. Please check the arrangements below carefully:

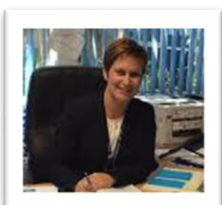
Date	Arrangements	Further Information
Wednesday 1 September	Staff INSET day	School closed to students
Thursday 2 September	Year 7 Tutor appointment with parent and student, uniform check, 1 st LFD test Year 11 Tutor appointment with parent and student, uniform check, 1 st LFD test Years 8, 9, 10 remain at home	Appointments will be sent to parents separately No school buses available
Friday 3 September	Year 7 Settling in Day – in school all day Year 11 - lessons in school all day Y8, Y9, Y10 – 1 st LFD testing only LFD testing in the community	8.45am start School buses run as per the timetable School testing teams to be based in Birch Green, Tanhouse and Digmoor Students living in Ashurst and Old Skelmersdale to be tested at school between 9am and 2pm
Monday 6 September	WEEK A - full timetable begins for all	2 nd LFD test to take place for all in the Sports Hall Tutor time and P1 Year 7 P2 Year 10 P3 Year 11 P4 Year 8 P5 Year 9

On our return to school in September, please ensure that your child has the correct equipment for learning and is wearing full uniform, including school shoes. If you have any issues regarding uniform or equipment please contact your child's Assistant Head of Year and we will support in any way we can.

If you do need support or advice through the summer, please contact us on familysupport@lathom.lancs.sch.uk This email address will be monitored throughout the summer holidays and a member of the Leadership Team will reply to you as quickly as possible.

I feel privileged to lead this wonderful school and more so than ever before, I feel so PROUD of everything that our students are achieving. They have faced so many challenges this year and in their work, and around school, they have conducted themselves with determination, understanding and respect. We have been living and working in the most unusual and exceptional of times for the past eighteen months and the circumstances we have found ourselves in as a result of the pandemic have tested us all. Our team here has risen to every challenge we have faced and has found a way, with great creativity and imagination at times, to overcome them. I could not be PROUDER. Their dedication, resilience and hard work cannot be overstated and I thank each and every member of our school community sincerely for their commitment, support, compassion and care. It means more than words can say.

I hope you all stay well and have a lovely summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school in September.



M Galbraith

Mrs Galbraith
Headteacher