

**Principal: Mrs N Lapskas**

---

11<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

We are at the end of the autumn term and what a busy one it has been, I cannot believe we are now a third of the way through the academic year.

### **Year 11 update**

Year 11 students will be given log ins for the PiXL Maths and Literature apps this week if they do not already have them. These are essential revision tools which can significantly improve exam performance. Please encourage your child to download the apps and use them frequently for short, focused revision activities.

In addition, Year 11 students will be set PiXL Independence tasks over Christmas to ensure they use some of this holiday time to keep key topics and information fresh in their minds for when they return in January. These booklets will be accessible via Show My Homework and will have relevant activities students can complete independently.

Finally, the Year 11 intervention timetable will officially start when we return in January. All subjects will be running additional sessions before school, at break or lunch and after school in order to support students in the build up to their exams. It is absolutely essential that you encourage your child to attend these as far as possible. If staff have identified that your child needs specific support in their subject, you will be contacted directly by the teacher concerned to ensure attendance at these sessions.

### **Sport Specialism update**

Firstly, we would like to welcome Mr Tom Holman as newly appointed Head of PE. Mr Holman will be working closely with Mr Chapman, the sport teachers and coaches to drive the specialism to further success.

This term LeAF Studio was awarded TASS Dual Career Accreditation by Sport England in recognition for the support we provide student athletes. The accreditation was formally presented to Mr Chapman by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson at the Hilton Park Lane hotel in London at the end of November. Of the seven centres to be recognised, LeAF Studio is currently the only secondary school in the country to have this accreditation.

**Powerlifting** – Year 10 students Abi and Jaime-Lei both secured British titles in the British Sub Junior Powerlifting Championships held in Scotland in November, with Jaime-Lei also breaking a British record for bench press.

**Swimming** – Year 11 Teagan has had an excellent end to her season, winning 4 golds and a silver at the end of October and winning the senior women's 1500m at the regional meet at Millfield in her debut for the distance. Teagan is looking forward to her first international event in the new year, having been selected to compete for the region in Europe alongside other members of Poole Swimming Club.

**Cycling** – Year 11 Macie has had a superb end to her competitive season, winning the U16 ICSF Cycle Speedway World Championship title in Australia to add to the British Championship she secured in August. As part of the Great Britain ladies team she also contributed to the test win over Australia and won bronze in the senior women's World Championship event.



Year 11 Jack came back from injury in October to win the Regional Elite category of the BMX Deep South Winter Series in Hampshire. Despite missing key races due to injury, Jack has finished the 2017 season ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the UK.

**Football** – Both the U14 and U15 football squads remain undefeated in the English Schools FA Small Schools Trophy, with the U14 team through to the quarter finals following a 3-1 victory against Truro School, and the U15 team playing ISCA Academy for a place in the quarter finals in the new year.

Year 9 Bebe and Year 10 Amber are both through to the final trials for the English Schools FA National team. Year 9 Charlie, Year 10 Grace and Year 11 Katie have also all been selected to represent Dorset this season. In addition to this Bebe, Amber and Grace have all been selected to represent South West English schools.



**Golf** – Year 12 Lauren ended the season by winning the Dorset Girls U18 Order of Merit, in addition to this Lauren was appointed to the role of Dorset Girls Vice Captain for 2017/18 and future Captain for 2018/19. Year 9 Bailey, Year 11 Dean, Year 11 George and Year 12 Lauren represented LeAF Studio at the ISGA Southern Open at Collingtree Park at the beginning of October. All played commendably, with Dean placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in his age group.

**Badminton** – Year 12 Ben won gold in the Men's singles at the Dorset U18 County Restricted in September, with Year 10 Zac taking silver in the mixed doubles and Ben and Zac pairing up to win gold in the Men's doubles. Year 10 Reuben played alongside his doubles partner Matt to take silver in the same event. Ben also won gold at the Hampshire U19 Silver competition in October. Year 11 Leo played for Dorset against Avon, winning every match on the way to a convincing County team victory. Year 9 Jake played alongside Reuben at the U16 Dorset County Championships at the end of September, with Jake taking gold and Reuben silver in the singles, Reuben taking gold and Jake silver in the mixed doubles, and then the pair dominated the male doubles, winning the competition without dropping a set. Despite a broken thumb in October, Reuben soldiered on to win bronze at the Warwickshire U17 Silver competition along with his doubles partner Alex.

**Volleyball** – Coach Kirk and his team of Jake Sheaf and Chris Gregory have gained selection to represent England at the Commonwealth Games in Australia in 2018. Former LeAF athlete mentors Jess Grimson and Vicky Palmer were also selected as the England female team. We wish them all the very best of luck in their preparation for the Games in the new year.

### **Stage & Screen Specialism update**

After an incredible end to last year and following the outstanding production of Grease, Stage & Screen students have had an incredibly busy start to this academic year with our recent Winter Variety Showcase celebrating this terms work being a huge highlight.

Year 11 students were incredibly lucky to work alongside SAFE partnership in their SAY NO campaign against domestic violence and sexual assault – this video can be found on YouTube on the following link

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9vQxlZrP0k&t=27s.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9vQxlZrP0k&t=27s)

Over 60 students from Year 9 – Year 12 were part the LeAF Studio choir and performed at Bournemouth Schools' Carol Concert in November - students performed their version of You Will Be Found from the hit musical Dear Evan Hansen.



Students from Stage have visited the theatre twice this half term to watch Rambert Dance Company's A Linha Curva and Frantic Assemblies' 'Things I Know to be True' – both playing huge parts on our GCSE courses here at LeAF.

During the last week of the term, Year 11 GCSE Drama students will be performing their devised pieces as part of their final exam.

Rock Challenge auditions have taken place and the newly formed LeAF Studio team are working tirelessly in preparation for our showcase event that takes place on Thursday 8 February at Bournemouth Pavilion – students will then compete at the premier final on Saturday 28 April at Portsmouth Guildhall for their chance to be part of the National Final in July. Tickets for these events are now available via ParentPay.

Individual student successes have included participation in shows, competitions and exams with their training providers, securing performance opportunities at festivals, local events and many more.

### **General information**

Please can I remind parents that any students requiring professional leave for filming / competitions need to complete a request form a minimum of two weeks prior to the event with all teacher signatures. Any work missed will be expected to be caught up during independent study / at home. Work will be placed online on 'Show My Homework' or given to your child directly.

Thank you to those parents that have paid the voluntary contributions. To date these contributions have allowed travel to matches, offsite events and students' support through our onsite physiotherapists. To ensure we can continue to enrich the students' time at LeAF Studio (and in line with many other schools), we are requesting that parents make a voluntary contribution of £20 per term, £60 across the academic year (per student / family) to support the continuation of these wonderful opportunities. If you are able to, we would be grateful for any help – you can pay by cheque (made out to LeAF Studio), cash or online through ParentPay.

### **Safeguarding**

Students are aware that across LeAF Studio we are all responsible for safeguarding. If you have any concerns in regards to your child in school please do not hesitate to make contact with;

- Miss Curtis (Pastoral Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead)
- Mr Phillips (SEND Co and Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead) or
- myself as the Designated Safeguard Lead.

Additional help for parents is on our website <http://studioschool.leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk/safeguarding.html> . This includes lots of information into Help Services within each Local Authority as well as national services such as Childline and NSPCC who have videos to support a variety of concerns, from signs of abuse through to use of social media.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/give-your-views>

In order to help us continually improve we would really like any current parent/carers to complete an Ofsted review of LeAF Studio via the above link. The link can also be found on the homepage of our website. Many thanks in advance.

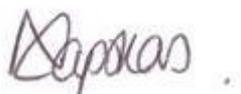
## Forthcoming Events

- 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December – Drama collapsed days for live exam
- **15<sup>th</sup> December – School finishes 12:30pm**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Inset day
- **3<sup>rd</sup> January – School open as normal**
- 4<sup>th</sup> January – SSCT Online Safety Talk to Year 10
- **9<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Parents Evening 4 – 6:30pm**
- 15<sup>th</sup> January – Year 10 Vaccinations
- **17<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 Business Studies Collapsed Controlled Assessment day**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> January – SSCT ANTR Talk for Year 11
- 24<sup>th</sup> January – Careers Fair 1230 - 1700

And finally, as you are aware, LeAF Studio became part of Ambitions Academy Trust in September 2017. In the lead up to the merger, Mr Paul Holman became Executive Principal for the three LeAF Schools. In this role Mr Holman supported LeAF Studio to become the sustainable school we are now. I would personally like to thank him for all his commitment and support over the past 18 months. Mr Holman has now returned to his role as Director of Outcomes for Ambitions Academy Trust, however, he will continue to work closely with Senior Leadership to ensure the best outcomes for all our young people.

Many thanks for all your support this half term. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Nadine Lapskas

Principal