

9th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to welcome your child to Limehurst Academy as a new year 7 student and to give you some detail on our return to school after the summer holidays. As I am sure you are aware, the government's lengthy guidance for schools was only published last Thursday. We have been working around-the-clock since then, but we are still finalising some of the detail of our plans. I will therefore write to you again at the beginning of term, but I hope there is enough in this letter to give you a much clearer picture of how school will operate when we return, which will be markedly different from your child's experience of school thus far.

That detail begins on the second page of this letter. Before that, I would like to briefly comment on the period since school closed on 20th March. Thank you so much for the messages of support and encouragement that many of you have given us, as we have worked together to support your child with the transition process despite not being able to run our usual programme of events. The challenges in doing so have been extraordinary, but the response has been truly heart-warming.

I know some of you have had varying levels of success with home-schooling (I can assure you this has challenged me with my own children!), but what I would say to you is don't worry. We have robust curriculum plans in place for our students next term, whatever their starting points. They will continue to get the same high-quality teaching that has enabled Limehurst to be recognised as one of the best schools in the country by the government for the last three years. We will not be setting work for students over the summer holiday – it is important that you all get a good break.

When we return, safety remains our number one priority. We will ensure that the latest government guidelines are always followed. The following information is based on current government advice for schools.

I want to finish by saying that we cannot wait to meet our new group of year 7 students! As stated earlier, I will write to you again at the beginning of term. Until then, have a happy and healthy holiday.

Yours sincerely

J Mellor
Headteacher

Start of Term

Because school is going to look and feel completely different to before, there are many new safety procedures that we are going to have to go through very carefully with the students. We are also conscious that the majority of our students will not have attended school for five months. We are therefore going to give each year group some dedicated time on their own in school at the beginning of term. As Limehurst is a completely new school for you child and we were unable to run the induction days we have decided to allocate an entire day to year 7.

Therefore, we expect to see **only** the following year groups at the days and times given below:

Wednesday 26 th August	Year 7	08:45 – 14:45	Tatmarsh entrance
Thursday 27 th August	Year 8	09:30 – 11:30	Tatmarsh entrance
	Year 9	12:30 – 14:30	Car Park entrance
Friday 28 th August	Year 10	09:30 – 11:30	Car Park entrance
	Year 11	12:30 – 14:30	Car Park entrance
Monday 31 st August	Bank Holiday		
Tuesday 1 st September	All students in full-time. See next section!		

Times of School Day from 1st September

Students will continue to receive five one-hour lessons each day. There will also be a 15-minute break time and 30-minute lunchtime for each student, and year 7 students will have a 15-minute tutor period each morning. Students in different year groups will have different start and end times to avoid congestion and year groups mixing with each other where possible.

School-day times:

Year 7	08:45 – 14:45
Years 8, 9 & 10	09:00 – 14:45
Year 11	10:00 – 15:45

Zones

Years 7, 8 & 9 will be based in a zone consisting of five classrooms. All of their lessons (with the exception of PE) will be in this zone. Subject teachers will come to the students, rather than the more traditional model of students going to the teachers. Each year group will have a dedicated set of toilets.

Years 10 & 11 will have a larger zone to allow for the specialist rooms needed for some of their GCSE subjects. We will carefully go through all of this with your child on their first day.

Learning

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 will continue to study all areas of the curriculum while years 10 and 11 will start/continue with all of their exam subjects.

Our plans for practical PE lessons are still in development; we will confirm these with you at the beginning of term.

Uniform

All normal uniform expectations will apply. If you need to order new uniform for your child, you can do so [here](#).

Personal hygiene and social distancing

Hand sanitiser will be widely available in school, although students are welcome to bring their own small bottles. We will be encouraging students to wash their hands thoroughly every two hours. We recommend that all students have a small packet of tissues with them each day, as shared tissue boxes in school increase the risk of spreading the virus.

Wherever possible social distancing will be in place. Students will be in class sizes of around 25 and will be sat side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on. This follows the current government advice for schools.

Government guidelines are clear that face masks should not be worn in schools by staff or students. However, we will not object if students or staff choose to wear one.

Attendance & Behaviour

All students are expected to return to school in the Autumn term. If you have any specific concerns which are not answered in our communications, please contact us. Punctuality will be extremely important, as different entrances will be open at different times, and we will need your help in reinforcing that point.

Our regular behaviour systems will be in place, but we will be extremely vigilant about any student who is compromising the safety of others.

Cashless Catering and Dining

We will be opening our catering facilities, but only at lunchtime – no food will be served at morning break. Students are, of course, welcome to bring their own snacks and/or packed lunches. The water fountains will not be in use and therefore students will need to bring their own bottle of water.

For the first few weeks of term, the food served in the canteen will be from a 'grab and go' offering. We will review this as the term progresses. As part of our ongoing safeguarding measures, and also for hygiene reasons, we have decided to move to a completely cashless system from September. Students will no longer be able to pay cash into their accounts at school. You must create an online account with School Gateway, which you can download as an app, or access online.

You can then top up credit online, and also view what your child is spending their money on. More details can be found by clicking [here](#) where you will find more information and a user guide. If you need any help setting up an account, please email ITSHelpdesk@limehurst.org.uk

Travel to/from school

We appreciate that most of our students walk to school. However, remember that if your child uses public transport, a face mask is compulsory to travel.

Equipment

Those of you whose children have been attending school recently will notice a change in the guidance on equipment.

The guidance now states that, for individual and very frequently used equipment such as pencils, pens and rulers, students must have their own items that are not shared. Please ensure that your child comes to school with this basic equipment. It is still recommended that students limit the amount of

equipment they bring into school each day, to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats, books, stationery and mobile phones. Bags are allowed.

Illness

Your child **must not** attend school if

- they feel unwell, or
- if they have any COVID-19 symptoms, or
- if anyone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms.

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test.

In any of these situations, please telephone the school for further advice.

No visitors

To begin with, all communication with parents will be by telephone, text message or email. Therefore, please ensure that your details are correct on the school system, and notify us immediately of any changes.

Please do not come on to the school site at all, unless you have been asked to by a member of staff.