



Headteacher: Jonathan Mellor  
Deputy Headteacher: Daljeet Sandhu  
Assistant Headteacher: Claire Corker  
Assistant Headteacher: Alex Mauger  
Assistant Headteacher: Steve Smith  
Associate Assistant Headteacher: Graham Robinson  
Bridge Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 1NH

Telephone: 01509 263444  
E-mail: office@limehurst.org.uk  
Website: www.limehurst.org.uk

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **The Autumn Term**

Happy new year to you all and I hope you all have had a lovely, enjoyable break. Back in sunny August, I wrote to you to ask for your support in ensuring we returned to school in the best possible way, and I am very pleased to report that we saw a positive start to this academic year.

Following the end of the Autumn term, I wanted to share with you some of our reflections of how we are doing so far and also where we need to focus going forward. As always, our intention is to ensure Limehurst Academy is relentless in its pursuit in making it an even better place for your children. To collectively achieve this, can I please ask for your support with the following and for you to reinforce this with your children.

As you know, Limehurst Academy is a special and unique place. It has always been more than a school and one I am very proud to be a part of. I often talk about expectations, things we should do, things we should not do, and I am always keen to explain why.

Some things we insist upon, are standard things you would expect in every school – good behaviour, punctuality, uniform etc. But what makes our school stand out, is how **we** do things - our students, parents/carers and staff have a manner or style in how they conduct themselves which you do not see in every school, which is to be celebrated.

As a parent/carer, I ask you to support us in striving for the best for your child. I respectfully ask for your support when we are challenging non-cooperation, or deliberate and open defiance around our expectations around uniform, good behaviour or punctual attendance.

### **School Uniform – The highest expectations.**

We take great pride in ensuring our students look smart and ready to learn. Our uniform policy has not changed, and the expectations are clear and explained to students regularly.

Can I please ask you to make sure you read the uniform guidance below very closely, paying particular attention to the following:

<https://www.limehurst.org.uk/schooluniform>

**Piercings:** The school is clear on which piercings are permitted – one pair of small stud earrings, no nose studs, or facial piercings. Any student who has recently had a facial piercing, against school policy, will be expected to wear a plaster over it until either they can remove it or are able to wear a clear retainer. Students who refuse to remove facial piercings or wear a clear retainer will be placed in the internal inclusion room indefinitely. You will of course be informed if this is the case and ask for your support in ensuring there are no repeat issues for us to deal with.

**Plain black shoes/trainers:** All shoes must be black, without exception, with no white or coloured sole, laces or logos.

**Hoodies and non-Limehurst logo Jumpers:** As all students are aware, hoodies/non-Limehurst logo jumpers are not permitted in school and will be taken at the gate upon entry to school.

**Jewellery, make-up and hairstyles:** Hair must be of a natural colour and appropriately styled. Extreme coloured hair and haircuts. Extreme coloured hair and haircuts are not permitted. One pair of small, plain earring studs may be worn and a watch may be worn. No nose studs, oral or facial piercings. If make-up is worn, it should be subtle, otherwise students will be asked to remove it. False nails and nail extensions are **NOT** allowed.

**Shirt and tie worn correctly:** We expect our uniform to be worn with pride. We will be insisting students wear their shirt tucked in, with their tie on.

**Outstanding uniform will always be a focus for us, so please do all you can to replace any non-school uniform.**

**As we have consistently done, we will contact home and/or send students home to change who repeatedly challenge our uniform policy, or, alternatively, they will be placed in the Inclusion room until the situation is rectified.** Please do all you can to help avoid this and ensure your child has the correct uniform available and by reminding them of our expectations. If you have any issues around this, please contact your child's relevant Head of Year.

### **Punctuality and Attendance**

**Punctuality to school and lessons remains a priority, with sanctions set for repeated lateness in the morning or during the day. Please support the school by ensuring you do all you can to encourage your child to be punctual at the start of the day. Lateness during the day is the student's responsibility and will also be challenged.**

To see your child's attendance, please log onto Go4 Schools and click on the attendance button.

Can I please ask all parents and carers to ensure their children attend school every day and keep us informed on day one of any absence by contacting the attendance office on 01509 263444 or email [attendance@limehurst.org.uk](mailto:attendance@limehurst.org.uk). If you are finding it difficult to get your child in to school, please contact the attendance officer for advice and guidance.

### **Holidays during term time.**

Removing your child from school during term-time hinders their learning and places them at a distinct disadvantage in terms of both their education and in comparison, with their peers' opportunities and achievements. Parents/carers have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school and they are expected

to take holidays during official school holidays – which equates to approximately 90 days per year. Please find this year's term dates below.

Our Attendance Policy is a comprehensive document outlining our approach and can be found on our school website. The link is below. Unless leave of absence has been granted prior to the absence, it will be unauthorised and referred to the County Attendance Team for further action.

<https://www.limehurst.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1656&type=pdf>

If there are any queries about any of the above, please contact me by email on [ssmith@limehurst.org.uk](mailto:ssmith@limehurst.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



**Steve Smith**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

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#### **TERM DATES 2023-24**

#### **Spring Term**

<b>School Opens</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>Mid-Term Break</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024
<b>School Closes</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024

#### **Summer Term**

<b>School Opens</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
<b>May Day Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
<b>Mid-Term Break</b>	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024
<b>School Closes</b>	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024