

23rd October 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

The past eight weeks have sped by and the half term break is now upon us. I am very proud of the way in which our year 8 students have settled back down into school routines, after lockdown. They have quickly adapted to the new regulations and are using their zone and the facilities available to them very well. I am particularly pleased with their enthusiasm for the garden area they have in their outdoor space and all that such enthusiasm entails.

Thank you, our parents and carers, for all your support thus far. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff for their collective efforts and for continually going above and beyond what is usual. I know that every one of us – be that student, member of staff, parent or carer, is now ready for some well deserved rest and relaxation. Before we start the half term break, I have a few updates and outline some responses to some queries raised by a few parents.

Updates

Pastoral care update

Since the beginning of this academic year, following government guidance, we have had to configure our school into several operational zones to house and distance our students. The main five zones of the school correlate to the five year groups 7-11. Our pastoral team – the progress and development leaders and pastoral managers – have so far been working across all of these zones to support the needs of the students in their houses. As is the case with any major change to operational working within the school, this has presented itself with challenges over the past half term, in main due to the restrictions of students crossing these zones to have access to their relevant pastoral support staff.

We have been constantly reviewing the system and as a result we have determined a new way to operate in the current climate which we believe will provide the students with the best day to day care and support needed.

From Monday 2nd November, we will be temporarily re-configuring roles and responsibilities in the pastoral team to ensure that each year group has a pastoral manager (our full-time non-teaching pastoral support workers) assigned fully to each year group. Alongside this, the progress and development leaders will also be assigned to a year group to support in full.

The following staff will be looking after year 8 in their zone:

Year 8: Mr Williams and Mrs Cull (substantively Challenger)

jwilliams@lighthall.co.uk

scull@lighthall.co.uk

This means that if your child is in Atlantis, Discovery or Endeavour House, it is likely that the members of staff you have contact with for pastoral support will change. In the first instance, as ever, we would still advise to contact your student's house tutor. For further pastoral support, the above members of staff will be your next contact point, via the email addresses above.

Head Teacher: Annette Kimblin

Hathaway Road | Shirley | Solihull | West Midlands | B90 2PZ

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We would like to assure you that the pastoral team will be conducting thorough handovers and that all relevant information will be passed on within the pastoral team, once we return to normal.

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions or queries, please contact Mrs Mohamed, kmohomed@lighthall.co.uk and we will support you as best we can.

COVID

Thank you for all your support in helping us to maintain our control measures and mitigate as much risk as possible. Please do remain vigilant to any symptoms your child may display and book a test if they show any of the following:

- High temperature
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste- this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If your child tests positive during the half term holiday please inform us by emailing attendance@lighthall.co.uk. Thank you for your support with this.

Frequently asked questions

Homework

We know that some year 8 students are still getting to grips with the routine of completing homework every night. Thank you for your support with this. All homework is currently set on SHOW MY HOMEWORK. If you are having difficulty in using this application to monitor your child's homework, please email us at passwordreset@lighthall.co.uk with your name, your child's name and your child's form and we will send you the login details for a parental account so you can better support your child's learning at home. There is a year 8 homework club after school on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please contact Mrs Cull, scull@lighthall.co.uk, if you feel that your child would benefit from attending this.

Online platforms

We currently use three main online platforms to support teaching and learning in school. They are SHOW MY HOMEWORK for the setting of homework, SENECA – a homework and revision platform which supports our school curriculum and Microsoft TEAMS. The latter is used for the provision of Remote Learning should your child need to self isolate for a period of time. We fully appreciate that this may feel a little overwhelming. Mr Hayfield, assistant headteacher, has scheduled a virtual support session for parents on 17th November at 5.30pm, 6.00pm or 6.30pm. Should you wish to take part, please contact Mr Hayfield, nhayfield@lighthall.co.uk.

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The best from everyone, all of the time.

Provision in the year 8 zone in inclement weather

Some parents have asked what happens when it rains at break and lunchtime. Year 8 have several covered areas in their outdoor space, they also access to the library and part of the Gandhi Building. There are places to sit down and eat their lunch both inside and outside. Year 8 have their own dedicated toilet block, which is cleaned by the daily cleaning team throughout the day, as well as after break and lunchtime. We are grateful for the positive feedback we have received from many students regarding this temporary toilet block.

I hope that you and your children enjoy a restful half term break. Very well done to them for settling back down to routine so well, continuing to be positive in their outlook and for having such an infectious enthusiasm and spark in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

Annette Kimblin

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Headteacher

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