



11th September 2020

Welcome to the second edition of the weekly Newsletter!

It has been great to see students flooding back into school. That unique buzz of excitement and enthusiasm has returned. Face to face classroom teaching is once again inspiring our young people. Students are re-engaging with their classmates, chatting, laughing and sharing life-experiences; in a word, socialising. We have been very impressed with the way students have responded to the challenge of year bubbles and one way systems.



We must insist on students keeping two metres distance from members of staff. This is proving challenging in classrooms, science labs, workshops and drama studios, but staff and students alike are endeavouring to get used to this. We have made it clear that the wearing of masks is optional. Maintaining good hand hygiene is not, and we are requiring all students to apply hand sanitiser or washing their hands at the start of every lesson. Our new enlarged team of cleaners is working really hard between lessons to keep classrooms as clean as possible.

We have noticed that more students are being brought into school by car, which is not a problem in itself, except that we are getting complaints from the users of the kindergarten at the end of the drive saying that our parents are clogging up their car park. If possible, please agree to pick up your children slightly further away from school—perhaps in the rugby club car park next to St Peter's Finger pub? I would also like to remind parents that the staff car park is an inappropriate and dangerous place to collect your child because of the number of students passing through it at the end of the day.

As with all plans, we need to evaluate and review their effectiveness. We have reviewed our decision to allow students to use lockers, and feel we need to make a change. We are concerned about the movement of students around lockers during the day as this compromises our year bubble model. Thus, For the remainder of this term, students will be required to carry their bag around with them. They will not have access to their lockers between 8.30am and 3.25pm. They will not have much to carry - just their planner, pencil case and possibly lunchbox; exercise books are being kept in classrooms, wherever this is possible. Our absolute priority is the safety of our students and staff. Please encourage your child to be responsible when meeting up with friends outside of school. We know that the virus is still very much alive and well, taking every opportunity to spread amongst the younger population. We cannot afford to be complacent. Your support is much appreciated.

Andrew Mead



Supporting young people with their mental health

The NHS has five tips for supporting children and young people:

- **Be there to listen:** Ask them how they are regularly, so they get used to speaking about their feelings
- **Stay involved in their life:** Show interest in it and the things that are important to them
- **Support positive routines:** Be a positive role model and support regular bedtime routines, healthy eating and getting active
- **Encourage their interests:** Being active, creative, learning things and being a part of a team are all good for mental health
- **Take what they say seriously:** Help them feel valued in what they say, and help them work through difficult emotions



Article from BBC News 8th September 2020

What if my child has symptoms?

If your child has a **high temperature** (over 37.7 degrees), a **dry persistent cough**, **loss of taste or smell**, please keep them at home and **phone 119** to arrange for them to have a COVID test. If your child tests positive, they will need to stay at home for 10 days, and any siblings will have to stay at home for 14 days. Please call me if your child tests positive. We will endeavour to provide your child with remote learning during their period of self-isolation.

Ex-Student Achievements



Congratulations to **Jasmine Sharland** for graduating from Royal Holloway College, University of London with a first class honours degree in BA History. We are very proud of her success and wish her well in her future career.

Tom Collins left Lytchett after completing his GCSEs three years ago.

Tom went on selection for Harrogate Army Foundation College the day after he finished his GCSE exams and then spent a year there, and then onto Catterick. Originally he went into the Grenadier guards, before swapping to the Household Cavalry. We wish him every success!



Bags and Lockers

We have decided to allow students to keep their bags with them throughout the day. This will negate the need for students to use the school lockers. Having observed the movement of students around the school it was clear that students were clustering around lockers at the start of the day and at lunchtime, compromising the integrity of the Year Bubbles.

Lockers will not now be used for the remainder of this term. As students no longer need to bring books to lessons (as they are being stored by the teacher in classrooms), students have very little to carry around with them. We will of course keep this and every health and safety measure under review.

Governor News



Emma Hall

Governor Introduction Statement

I'm really excited to be joining the governing body of Lytchett Minster School. My eldest son starts in year 7 at Lytchett in September, so we're both looking forward to getting to know the school together.

I have worked in school governance for the last six years in a multi-academy trust of four Poole schools. I chaired the Standards Committee, before being elected Chair of Trustees. I also represent academy schools on the BCP Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, improving services for children across the borough. I'm keen to use my experience to support Lytchett, at the same time as learning the differences in governance between primary and secondary education, BCP and Dorset as well as multi-academy trust and foundation schools.

I love the Dorset area, having been born and educated in Poole, so following a few years away for University, returned 'home' to work and raise our family. I work for a large financial services company, managing the customer experience and communications sent to customers. My husband and I have two boys, our eldest at Lytchett and our youngest in year 5 at a local junior school.

I'm excited to support the school community as a Lytchett governor.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body. If you are a parent of a Lytchett Minster School student and you feel you could make a valuable contribution to the school's governing body, please email the clerk to the governors, Judith Hayward (haywardj@lytchett.org.uk) for more information.

Student Achievements

During lockdown and throughout the Summer holidays many of our students have taken up new hobbies and achieved greatness in already established ones. Here are a few.....



Well done to **Rachel Harpham** in Year 7 who during the summer holidays gained a Grade 1 for singing.



During lockdown, **Amber Minhas** in Year 7 taught herself how to play the piano and is now practising for her Grade 1!



Brothers **Devon and Mason Green** in Year 7 won a sailing event together—Well done.



Reminders

Parking - Please consider others

Please can I ask that in this time of social distancing and 'bubbles' that you avoid parking in the **Kindergarten Car Park** at the bottom of the drive next to the church, if you can possibly help it. The car park, owned by the diocese, has been offered to the nursery, and nursery parents have been allocated spaces there. Perhaps you could ask your child to walk to the Rugby Club car park to be picked up there, or alternatively, arrange to pick up your child at 3.45pm from the school bus lane, by which time the congestion will have reduced considerably. Please also note that there is a **STOP** sign where the school driveway meets the lane. Local residents have requested that you adhere to this instruction!

If you park at the **top of the drive by the school entrance** you risk preventing dozens of other parents from accessing the school drive, so please refrain from doing this. There is just not enough space to park in this location!

Please could I also ask you not to **park in the staff car park** in front of the Manor House after 3.00pm, as this is used by students as a main thoroughfare at the end of the day.



Piercings

Our Uniform Policy is quite clear about earrings and other piercings:

- Students may wear no more than one ear stud (small, or flush fitting) in each ear.
- Other body piercing studs, rings, etc, including on the face and in the mouth, must not be worn to school under any circumstances.
- Piercings that require a ring, retainer or object to remain in place whilst the site heals are not acceptable during school sessions.
- Stretcher piercings are forbidden in school.

Students failing to comply with our uniform rules will be expected to remove the piercing immediately before they will be permitted to attend normal lessons.



Road Safety



PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO CYCLE INTO SCHOOL

Please ensure your child is wearing a cycle helmet! They run the risk of serious injury by not wearing a helmet on the way to and from school.

Your co-operation with this would be much appreciated.

House Contacts

Agglestone House Office: agglestoneoffice@lytchett.org.uk

Gault House Office: gaultoffice@lytchett.org.uk

Kimmeridge House Office: kimmeridgeoffice@lytchett.org.uk

Portland House Office: portlandoffice@lytchett.org.uk

Purbeck House Office: purbeckoffice@lytchett.org.uk

Wealden Office: wealdenoffice@lytchett.org.uk

Sixth Form: sixthform@lytchett.org.uk

In the interests of hygiene and general cleanliness, **chewing gum is banned in school.**

Please encourage your child not to bring chewing gum into school.

We do not want to be clearing off used chewing gum from tables, chairs and other surfaces.



School Aprons



Due to a delay with the supplier of the school branded aprons, we have had to urgently purchase some disposable ones which will be available to all students. Hopefully the branded aprons will be delivered within the next couple of weeks.

Leave your mark at Lytchett Minster School!

Last year, a number of parents, staff and former students 'bought a brick' with their name engraved on it for our path leading up to the new Pavilion building. At the time, we only managed to raise enough money to construct a third of the path with named bricks. The plan was always to complete this brick path at some point in the future. We now plan to complete this path in **December 2020**.

Would you like to support us by buying a brick with your name, your child's name or your family name on it? This could serve as a lasting reminder of your involvement with the school. You can buy a brick with your name on it for £15. The maximum number of lines permitted is two, with a maximum number of sixteen characters per line:

Examples:

The Smith Family 2020

Thomas and Sarah Smith 2020

Thomas Smith Year 7 2020

If you would like to order your personalised brick(s), please go onto our **WisePay page on our website**, and write the names of the people you would like engraved on it. If you do not have access to WisePay, cheques will also be accepted (made payable to 'Lytchett Minster School').

Please remember:

- £15 per brick
- Two lines maximum
- A maximum of 16 characters per line
- Maximum of 10 bricks per family



Important Dates

Please note that we will be transferring all our public events (such as Open Evening and Parents Information Evenings) online this term.

*Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October: **Half term holiday***

Reminder of Year Bubble Zones (before school, break and lunchtime):

YEAR	OUTDOOR ZONE	INDOOR
7	TERRACE	PORTLAND
8	CAGES	MSH
9	BEHIND ARTS BLOCK	ARTS BLOCK
10	AREA AROUND OUTSIDE OF LULWORTH	LULWORTH
11	DECKING, AMPHITHEATRE, LAWN, PAVILION	CAFÉ
12-14	AREA AROUND OUTSIDE OF GAULT AND BOTTOM OF FIELD	6TH FORM CENTRE AND STUDY AREA

Parent Forum

Parent Forum takes place every half term. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss any aspect of school life (positive and negative) directly with the headmaster. Meetings are open to all and are advertised on the back of the Newsletter with the calendar of events. For more information about Parent Forum meetings, please contact Mrs Miles (milesh@lytchett.org.uk).

This term the meetings will take place online via Zoom. If you would like to attend the first Parent Forum meeting of the year, please contact Mrs Miles (milesh@lytchett.org.uk). Those parents who express an interest, will then receive an invitation to the meeting which will take place via Zoom on **Wednesday 30th September 7.00pm-8.00pm.**