



12th February 2021

Dear parents and carers

End of Spring 1 Letter

Parent survey: Thank you to so many of you for the responses to the survey I sent out in my last letter. We have had nearly two hundred responses. I have read every single response made including all the written comments. These have helped shape our priorities for next term. The summary of your response is overwhelmingly positive and supportive of our work this year and particularly during this lockdown period. We do not take this for granted and only want to strive to be even better to ensure your child has the exceptional education they deserve.

The **headlines** from your responses are:

- **97%** of you would consider recommending Lowton to another interested parent.
- **95%** of you agree that the school is serving its students well during this lockdown period.
- **94%** of you agree that your child is getting the appropriate amount of work.
- **93%** of you agree that communication from the school is informative and helpful
- **92%** of you agree that your child is well supported in their learning.
- **85%** of you agree that your child is getting useful feedback on their work.

The **priorities** that came through from your feedback that we will now start work on are:

- Having more specific feedback, contact or conversations with subject teachers.
- Longer time slots at parents' evenings.
- Better recognition for students completing their work remotely.
- Looking at the balance of live and recorded lessons.

Half term break: Next week is half term. School will not be open between Monday 15th and Friday 19th February. There will be no live or recorded lessons during this week and for those students in school a reminder that you should stay at home for the full week. We restart lessons on Monday 22nd February.

Reopening of schools: We expect there to be a Government announcement on Monday 22nd February regarding the review of national lockdown restrictions. We expect this to include detail on schools. The current position is that there will be no return to school earlier than Monday 8th March and that there will be at least two weeks' notice of reopening. Like you, we look forward to hearing the Government's decision and I will be in touch with our plans going forward in the first week after half term.

Homework over the half term break: We do not expect students to complete any homework over half term, other than students in Year 11 and Year 10 RS where students are revising for graded assessments after half term. These will help shape the final teacher assessed grade.

Year 11 Parents' and Students' Webinar. We will be holding a further webinar for Year 11 on Thursday 4th March at 6.00 pm. This is in place of the planned parents' evening which we will move to a different date. The purpose of the webinar will be to talk to you about the next few months of Year 11 leading up to the completion of their courses. We also expect there to have been an announcement by then regarding returning to school and the process of arriving at teacher assessed grades this summer.

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

The link to register for this webinar will be sent to you in my next update letter.

Year 9 Parents' and Students' Webinar: As mentioned in an earlier letter, we have had to move the timescale for students in Year 9 to select their options for the examination courses that will start in September 2021. To discuss the detail of this process with both parents and students we will hold a webinar on Monday 8th March at 6.00 pm.

The link to register for this webinar will be sent to you in my next update letter.

Year 7 and Year 8 Design Technology and Food Technology Carousels: The Year 7 and 8 Design Technology and Food Technology carousels will change from 22nd February, so that students can study the other Technology discipline for the rest of the academic year. Students will be informed about their new group via Satchel-One.

Key dates for the next half term

- Term restarts: Monday 22nd February (remote learning for the vast majority)
- Year 11 Webinar: Thursday 4th March at 6.00 pm
- Year 9 Options Webinar: Monday 8th March at 6.00 pm
- Year 7 Parents' Evening: Tuesday 23rd March from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm
- Spring term ends: Thursday 1st April

I will write to you after half term and until then I hope you stay safe and well. We are so grateful for all the efforts you have put in to keep your child engaged with their learning in recent weeks.

Hopefully the lockdown is nearing an end but either way it is now time for a break.

Take care. Stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher