



7 May 2021

Dear parents and carers

Weekly letter (week ending Friday 7 May 2021)

In last week's letter I mentioned the focus in our curriculum about 'academic rigour' – the first of three main principles in our curriculum. The other two principles that underpin our curriculum are 'nurture and development' and 'social action'. In order to strengthen our curriculum offer we are investing further in our staffing model to ensure these areas are served well. We are appointing to four roles in the following areas:

Head of Christian Distinctiveness: this role will provide school wide leadership to develop and embed the distinctive elements of our curriculum that reflect the Christian faith. It will oversee the work of the new school Chaplain when they are appointed and ensure that our social action element permeates school life.

Head of Literacy: this role will provide school wide leadership to develop literacy across the curriculum and the targeted provision for pupils who are behind age related standards when they join our school.

Head of Pupil Recognition and Leadership: this role will develop enrichment, cultural, leadership and recognition aspects of school life. One aspect of this will be to develop a *Pupil Charter* which defines the experiences we want every Lowton child to have in the five years they are with us.

Head of Careers: this will provide school wide leadership on developing awareness of future employment and training, raising aspirations and widening access to career opportunities.

I will update you further when we have appointed to these roles and give more detail on our plans, but it signals our investment in your child's curriculum including, and beyond, their success in subjects.

National Numeracy Day

Today is NSPCC Number Day and **Wednesday 19 May** it is National Numeracy Day. We will be doing a range of activities in and beyond lessons that day to raise the profile of strong (and fun) numeracy skills. If you are interested in knowing more about the national focus on numeracy follow this link:

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/numeracyday>

Timeliness to school.

There has been a notable increase in traffic levels in recent weeks. The roads are busier around school at the start and end of the day. There has been an increase in a small number of students getting to school a few minutes after 8.30 am when the school gate is locked, but not always as a result of traffic. If a student is late for school a detention is issued. Please can you support us in asking your child to get to school for 8.15 am so that we can continue with our COVID-safe start of day routines of lining up and handwashing.

Home testing for COVID-19 (lateral flow tests).

Thank you to those that are reminding their child to complete the lateral flow test each Sunday and Wednesday evenings and report the outcomes to school and the NHS.

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

There has been a decline in the number of tests being reported, we know there are some children doing the test but not reporting it to school and/or the NHS. However, some are not doing the test at all.

Even though the infection rate is considerably lower than it was, the lateral flow tests are identifying positive cases. So, please persevere with the testing. It is important to all of us to keep safe and beat the virus.

A reminder that Y8 parents' evening takes place on Tuesday 11th May and the link is live for you to make appointments if you have not already done so: <https://lowtonchurchofengland.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher