The Lowry Academy
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Part of United Learning

Weekly Parent Communications

Week Ending - 23rd October



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Principal's Notes



Mrs Coy, Principal

Please see Mrs Coy's message in our End of Half-Term 1 Newsletter.
Click the link below to view it:

End of Half–Term 1 Newsletter



Pastoral – Mrs Griffith, Vice Principal

Looking Ahead to Next Half Term

Year 11 Mock Examinations

Year 11 Mock Examinations begin on the first Monday back after the holiday. These examinations are an important part of the GCSE preparation process as they allow us to identify strengths and any gaps in learning. This information helps us put targeted interventions in place so that every student has the best possible opportunity to achieve strong outcomes in their summer examinations. We encourage all Year 11 students to make good use of the holiday period to revise and prepare.

Progress Evenings

Our remaining Progress Evening will take place during the first week back after half term. This provides an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with teachers, discuss progress and understand how best to support learning at home.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place on 9 December and will raise funds towards the Year 11 Prom. All families and members of the community are welcome to attend.
We are also seeking donations for the raffle and would be extremely grateful for any contributions from families or local businesses. Further information will be shared after half term, and we thank you in advance for your support in helping make this event a success.

Seasonal Reminders

As we move further into the Autumn and Winter months, we recommend that students bring a suitable coat to school each day.
With darker mornings and evenings, we also ask families to ensure that any student travelling by bicycle has working reflective lights and visibility equipment to help keep them safe on their journey to and from school.

Support During the Holiday

Although school will be closed to students during the holiday period, the Main Office and Safeguarding Team will remain available should families require support or advice.
If you need to contact us, please do so via Ask Lowry (Ask.Lowry@LowryAcademy.org.uk)

Important Reminders

Uniform Expectations

To ensure high standards and consistency across the school, we would like to remind families of the following uniform expectations:

- *False nails are not permitted.*
- *False eyelashes are not permitted.*
- *Extreme hair colours are not permitted.*

Trousers worn by female students should be traditional office-style trousers and not fit-and-flare or other fashion styles.
Further details can be found on our website. In line with the school's uniform policy, students who arrive at school not meeting these expectations may be required to spend time in Reflection until the issue is resolved.

Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance remains one of the most important contributors to academic success. Department for Education statistics consistently show that students with strong attendance are significantly more likely to achieve good GCSE outcomes and secure higher grades.
Every lesson matters. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring students attend school every day, arrive on time and are ready to learn.



Pastoral – Mr Riley, Associate Assistant Principal

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students during Physical Education lessons, we are writing to inform you of an important change to our PE kit expectations. ***From Monday 2nd November, shin pads will become a compulsory item of PE kit for all students participating in football activities during PE lessons and cocurricular clubs.*** *This change has been introduced to reduce the risk of injury and to ensure that all students can participate safely in practical football sessions and is in line with The FA and AfPE guidelines.*

We appreciate that some families may not currently own shin pads, therefore, students will have the half-term break and following two weeks to purchase an appropriate pair before this requirement comes into effect. To support this transition, the PE Department will have a limited number of spare shin pads available for students to borrow if required. These shin pads must be returned at the end of the lesson and should be viewed as a short-term measure rather than a permanent solution. It is also recommended that students purchase plain black football socks to support keeping the shin pads in place when worn. Following an appropriate transition period, students who attend lessons without shin pads may receive a Lowry Line mark, in line with our school expectations regarding PE kit compliance. Any student failing to be equipped fully for their PE lesson and specified activity shall be dealt with in accordance with the school's behaviour policy.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring that your child is equipped for all their PE lessons and with shin pads ready for their football PE lessons after half term. Shin pads are widely available from a variety of sports retailers and supermarkets at a relatively low cost. Currently Sports Direct have shin pads for approximately £4 a pair.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact the PE Department. Thank you for your continued support.



Personal Development – Miss Jones, Assistant Principal

This week, Year 7 students took their first steps on their student leadership journey by applying for Silver Tie and Prefect positions. After completing an application form and securing a reference from a member of staff, students attended a formal interview led by our Year 8 student leaders.

During the interviews, students discussed how they demonstrate the Lowry Values in their daily school life and shared their ideas for making a positive contribution to the academy community. We were incredibly impressed by the confidence, maturity and enthusiasm shown by our Year 7 applicants, and we look forward to seeing them develop as future leaders within our school.

A special thank you goes to our Year 8 interviewers, who conducted themselves professionally and provided a supportive and welcoming experience for all candidates.



Curriculum & Academic Excellence – Miss Hindle, Assistant Principal

Homework and the Use of AI

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of students completing their homework independently. We are aware of AI websites and tools that can automatically complete homework on platforms such as Sparx and Seneca. Whilst these may seem like a quick solution, they prevent students from practising and developing the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. They also make it difficult for teachers to identify areas where students may need additional support.

Please encourage your child to complete their homework themselves and remind them that **school login details should never be shared with external websites or apps.**

If your child is struggling with their homework, we encourage them to attend **Homework Club, which runs every lunchtime in L11 with Mr Hawes and Mrs Walsh.** This is a great opportunity for students to receive additional support and complete their homework in a supportive environment.

Thank you for your continued support in helping students develop good independent learning habits.

Mastery – Week Beginning 2nd November

For the first week back after half term, our Mastery focus will be Religious Studies. Students should use their Knowledge Organisers to complete self-quizzing and prepare for their Mastery questions using the following pages:

- **Year 7:** Self-quizzing on pages 232–233, questions on page 234.
- **Year 8:** Self-quizzing on pages 244–245, questions on page 246.
- **Year 9:** Self-quizzing on page 174, questions on page 176.

Please encourage your child to show you their completed self-quizzing and spend some time testing them on the questions. Your support at home makes a real difference in helping students remember and confidently recall key knowledge.



Teaching & Learning – Miss Blain, Assistant Principal

It has been great to be in lessons and see the effort and engagement students have shown in their commitment to learning this half term. During any time away from school it is valuable to check over learning that has been covered to help embed this knowledge, particularly with Year 11 as they come back from half term and enter their first mock exam season. Successful revision is all about consistency, and like a lot of things in life, the simple things usually have the most impact. Little and often, targeting topics they find difficult, eating and sleeping well and teaching them to build resilience when they find things hard. They may not get it right or find it easy when they start, but no one expects them to be perfect and the lesson is to keep trying anyway. Wishing all students and their families a restful break and look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for learning in Half Term 2.

Dates for Your Diary

Please make a note of the following dates, further information will be sent to families closer to specific events:

Monday 2nd November
Students return for Half-Term 2

Wednesday 4th November
KS3 Academic Reviews



Monday 16th November
Odd Sock Day
For Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 23rd November
INSET DAY
School shut for students

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read this week's communications. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at ask.lowry@lowryacademy.org.uk.



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