

Re: September 2020 – Year 9 induction

Dear Parent or Carer,

We hope that you have had a safe and restful summer break.

In preparation for the new term we would like to invite our new Year 9 cohort into school for a short reintegration session on:

Friday 28th August 2020 at 9:00am

in order to positively reintroduce them to the new school year and the health and safety changes we have had to implement in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We also want to provide our pupils with opportunities to ask questions and reacquaint themselves with friends before the start of the new academic year.

Pupils will attend a workshop on the day to prepare them for the year ahead and they will also have an opportunity to see their teachers and allay any fears or anxieties they may have about the upcoming term.

Attendance is compulsory and students must arrive promptly and in full school uniform. Please get in touch if this poses any problems.

We hope you will be fully supportive of this measure and we look forward to seeing your child on the day.

I am also enclosing a list of 'Frequently asked questions' regarding the re-opening of the school in September. These were questions asked by school parents in the Zoom session which took place on Wednesday 22nd July.

If for any reason your child cannot attend the reinduction day please let us know via the school email: school@leytonstone.waltham.sch.uk and we will do our best to make alternative arrangements.

Yours faithfully,

Jessica McQuaid
Head Teacher

Jo Letson
Acting Deputy Head Teacher

Re-opening Leytonstone School – Frequently asked questions (Parents)

School logistics

Q: I have two children, one in Group 1 and the other in Group 2. How can they begin school at different times if they are walking to school together?

A: Siblings from different year groups and bubbles will still be permitted to arrive at school together provided they arrive by 8:40am.

We will provide waiting spaces for pupils who arrive earlier than their start time.

Q: When does term begin for pupils?

A:

Year 7 begin at 12:40pm on Thursday 3rd September

Year 8 begin at 9:00am on Thursday 10th September

Year 9 begin at 8:40am on Thursday 10th September

Year 10 begin at 9:00am on Wednesday 9th September

Year 11 begin at 8:40am on Tuesday 8th September

Q: How are lunches and breaks being organised for pupils?

A: There will be two break time and lunchtime slots as part of the school day; one for Group 1 and another for Group 2. Pupils will be allocated specific places where they will collect food, socialise and access toilet facilities. All these details will be shared with pupils at the pre-September induction sessions.

Q: What are the plans for pupil's topping up their lunch cards?

A: The school will be completely cash-free from September 2020. Pupils will need to arrive at school with fully topped-up lunch cards.

It will be very much appreciated if parents and carers ensured that pupil's Parentpay accounts are kept in credit.

Teaching, learning and the curriculum

Q: How will the school be benchmarking Year 7 in the absence of the KS2 SATs?

A: Year 7 pupils who join Leytonstone School in September 2020 will take two nationally recognised tests: CATs and the NRT Reading tests. Data from their performance will be used to help build an appropriate curriculum.

Q: What are the school's plans for supporting pupils who have fallen behind with learning?

A: The school has consistently made engaging and accessible work available on the school virtual learning platform since two weeks into national lockdown but this is no substitute for interactive learning in real-time, in a classroom.

We do not plan to repeatedly tell pupils that they are 'behind' or that they need to 'catch up' as such emotive language often has negative effects on pupil motivation. Instead, we have reviewed our curricula and will be frequently assessing pupils in multiple ways in order to know where (if any) knowledge gaps have developed. We are also planning on introducing teaching sequences which reignite pupils' motivation.

Q: How will the school facilitate the teaching of practical subjects?

In order to adhere to guidance from the Department for Education, pupil movement around the school will be significantly reduced, thus restricting access to some areas of the school where practical subjects are taught. At KS4 (Years 10 and 11) the teaching of practical subjects will continue as planned; there will be some reduction at KS3, but the curriculum has been carefully reconfigured by Heads of Department to ensure that learning is as engaging as it can be.

Q: When will the school's extracurricular clubs begin?

A: The school will be running through the new timetable and operations twice (four weeks) before any extracurricular clubs begin in October.

Q: What are the school's plans for subjects where pupils are organised into sets?

A: Only two subjects in the school organise pupils into sets (Maths and Science). Setting will be slightly reduced as part of the school's re-opening plans. There will be three sets in operation across Maths and Science.

Behaviour management

Q: How will the school guarantee high standards of pupil behaviour as part of its re-opening plan?

A: Standards and expectations of pupil behaviour at the school are high and have improved since the launch of the school's new Behaviour Policy in January 2020. In line with government expectations, an addendum has been added to this policy related to conduct expectations around Covid-19. Details of this policy will be shared via the school's website and will also be shared with pupils in the planned pre-September inductions meetings.

Q: How will the school support pupils pastorally after being out of normal school routines for so long?

A: The pre-September induction sessions are part of the school's plan to successfully reintegrate pupils back into school life. Over the first half-term back to school, pupils will be scheduled one-to-one sessions with their tutors in order to discuss any difficulties they may be experiencing with settling back into school. Teaching and support staff have also begun a series of training sessions focused on making judicious language choices at this time in order to not heighten anxiety but create an atmosphere where pupils believe they can achieve.

Q: What will the pre-September induction sessions be focused on?

A: We have a lot of information to share with pupils! We are planning on running workshops with pupils, organising tours of their new 'zones' whilst also giving pupils an opportunity to ask questions about the school's re-opening. Pupils will be refocused on the aims of the year whilst also having time to safely catch up friends.

Hygiene and safety

Q: What will happen if my child develops Covid-19 symptoms at school?

A: Pupils who develop Covid-19 symptoms whilst at school will report to one of the medical rooms in their zone. They will be placed in an isolation room and a member of staff will monitor the pupil. A parent/carer will need to collect the pupil and make arrangements for the pupil (and other members of the household) to be tested for Covid-19.

A positive result will mean the pupil (and potentially any other members of the household exhibiting symptoms) will need to self-isolate for 14 days, a negative result will mean the pupil can return to school as soon as they are feeling well again.

Q: Can my child wear PPE inside the school building?

Pupils may wear PPE on their journeys to school but this must be removed prior to entry to the school site. Pupils will also be expected to wash and/or sanitise their hands on entry to the site. Once inside the building, pupils will remain in their bubbles for the majority of the school day. There will be very limited mixing of pupils thus a less likelihood of infection spreading.

Hand sanitising stations have been set up in every room in the school and pupils will be taken through the school's new hygiene regimens as part of the pre-September induction sessions.

Q: What will the school do in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak (within the school)?

The local authority have robust systems in place for managing any in-school infection outbreaks. All schools must inform the local authority Covid task team of any pupils or staff who test positive for Covid-19. The task team will then review each case and make a decision on what the next steps need to be for the school to remain open safely.

Sticking to government guidelines and reducing the opportunity for pupils to mix with each other will help to ensure that the infection does not spread through the school community.