

Message from Ben Hawes, Headteacher

Welcome back to school! It's great to see all the learners return to school and have had a seamless transition following the holidays. I am so proud of how our learners have returned calmly, excited, and ready to learn. It has also been great to see how learners have been interacting with one another following a very disruptive year.

All the guidelines around Covid19 are changing and updated as we move through the academic year. Our risk assessment is on our website which explains our processes to ensure everyone is safe at Lime Academy Hornbeam. This is an ever-changing picture, and we will continue to follow all the necessary guidelines so learners can access education safely.

We have many exciting ideas and initiatives that will be put into place this academic year to enrich the experiences of learners at the school. Firstly, we have begun the process of gaining a licence to deliver the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). The DofE is an exciting enrichment opportunity that builds esteem, confidence, and friendships. It is an award that is nationally recognised by employers to strengthen CVs and University applications to support our learners for when they leave Lime Academy Hornbeam.

All staff have undertaken statutory Safeguarding training to raise awareness of how to keep all learners safe, especially around online safety and we have also been working on developing our vision and values and how they are applied to the curriculum.

I hope you all have a nice weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Building update:

We have invested a significant amount of capital on a new roof at both sites to ensure the provision remains safe and dry. Due to the torrential rain, we unfortunately had to relocate two classes to alternative spaces within the school.

The roof works are due to finish by Christmas, and we will be continuing our renovation works to develop the outdoor areas at the William Morris Campus to install an outdoor gym and the primary playground. We will also be developing the Quad area at Brookfield House to introduce a wet play area.

Learners:

All classes have been getting to know their learners over the past two weeks and the topic for this half term is "Incredible Me." If you would like to discuss your family tree with your young person this weekend, that would be great as we will be facilitating class discussions about our families and backgrounds.

SCHOOL CALENDAR



18 October	INSET Day 2 – school closed to pupils
19 October	Pupils return to school
22 October	Last day of half term
25 – 29 October	Autumn Half Term
01 November	Pupils return to school
13 December	INSET Day 3 – school closed to pupils

COVID UPDATE:

We are continuing to work in line with the Government and DfE guidance regarding safety in schools during a pandemic. This can be found at:

[**SEND and specialist settings: additional COVID-19 Operational Guidance.**](#)

We encourage you to continue testing twice weekly and if your child tests positive we ask that you notify the school immediately. Government guidance now states that no child under 18 or adult who is double vaccinated needs to isolate. If you require any Lateral Flow Test kits, please contact the School Office.

The Academy's COVID-19 Risk Assessments and Outbreak Plan are available on our website under the COVID-19 tab.

<http://limeacademyhornbeam.org/covid-19/>

Welcome to the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DoE)

At Lime Academy Hornbeam we are delighted to be in a position to offer the DofE Award to students in year 9 and above. This programme is nationally and internationally recognised within colleges, businesses and universities.

Many know of the DofE for the expedition section, with getting out in the countryside, learning to map read and camping out over-night. The award is so much more. Students will be given the opportunity to complete 3 other sections, Volunteering, Physical and Skill as well as the Expedition section. The award gives young people an opportunity to develop skills outside of the classroom such as, problem solving, leadership and teamwork, forming new friendships, resilience as well as giving young people an awareness of their own strengths.

We will be offering Bronze this year, which we are really excited about. Students get to decide what activities they want to do for their three sections for a timescale of 3 or 6 months. Which will demonstrate commitment to an activity over time and show dedication to completing the sectional activities. We want to allow our students to really set their own challenges and push their own personal boundaries and being successful doing so. If you want to find out more, please see the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/do/>