

CHRISTMAS 2019 NEWSLETTER



Dear families and carers,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support for Oasis Academy Leesbrook as we've entered our second year being open. We have been overwhelmed with the support and kindness from our families since opening our doors in September 2018, and this has certainly continued into 2019.

As I reflect on the first term of our second year, I continue to grow in pride and awe of our wonderful Leesbrookers and all that they have achieved, and continue to achieve. Their kindness, compassion, resilience, respect and commitment to the Academy and our Oasis 9 Habits always amazes me and makes me feel so proud to be leading such a wonderful group of individuals; our next local, national and global leaders-what a world we will live in if they are leading!

This term, our students have achieved so much. Our Cultural Enrichment Programme is one of the best in the country, boasting over 37 clubs each week for the students to select from. I am so proud of our wonderful staff who lead these clubs each night, giving up their time to support the cultural enrichment of our students. In addition, our students have been involved in a range of sporting events, including football matches, table tennis tournaments and reward trips to watch Manchester City and Manchester United. Many of our students are learning to play musical instruments; guitar, violin, steel pans and piano, to name but a few! Our wonderful, amazing Leesbrook Choir sang at the Oasis Regional Conference, in front of all of the staff from across the North and our CEO and National team; they absolutely blew us all away! Our Northern Regional Director, Mrs Arya, was particularly impressed with the professionalism and beautiful sound of our wonderful choir (not forgetting our amazing conductor, Miss Jenkins and pianist, Mr Lees!). In addition to this, the Leesbrook Choir opened the Salvation Army Christmas Markets and made us all proud (and emotional!) singing a mix of Christmas songs and songs from different cultures and countries.



Our students have been involved in DebateMate, learning how to debate their viewpoints and ideas that they are passionate about; they have been to watch a performance of Macbeth; been to the Royal Exchange on a careers trip; visited the Languages Live exhibition in London and took part in a range of school-based activities such as our Tutor Trust visits, Mad Science experiments, Manchester City in the Community Programme and the ongoing work with Bryn from Commando Joes...Leesbrookers have certainly been busy! All of this underpins the foundations of our mission for every single Leesbrook student: developing happy and successful leaders who are culturally enriched role models in our community.

In addition, our Leesbrookers have been exercising their 9 Habits, including that of consideration and compassion by donating regularly to our local foodbank (UKeff) and to the local Shoebox Appeal. They have also continued to be exemplary citizens and representatives of Oasis Academy Leesbrook who are often congratulated for their behaviour when out in the community and beyond.



In the midst of all of this, our builders, Galliford Try, have been working tirelessly to ensure our brand new building will be ready to move into in September 2020. Mr Jones, Ayo, Khizr, Charlotte, Ty and myself were all lucky enough to be involved in the 'Golden Bolt' event in November where our students put in the final bolt of the steel framework. We are so excited to move into our brand new building, just off Lees Road, and we are really enjoying watching the building take shape! Please read on in this newsletter for an update from Galliford Try!

As we enter the break, can I, once again, thank you for your continued support and wish you a wonderful family-filled break, however you wish to spend it. We return to school on Tuesday 7th January, 2019. Can I remind you all that we provide FREE breakfast to all students from 7:45-8:15am every day.

I look forward to seeing all of our Leesbrookers, in full uniform, and welcoming them in, on the gate, on the first day back in 2020! What an exciting year we have in store!

Best wishes for a restful holiday and wishing you a New Year filled with happiness, health and peace.

Sarah Livesey
Principal



We are delighted to announce that, after a thorough recruitment process, led by Principal Students Ayo and Khizr, Tyreece is now our Oasis Academy Leesbrook Deputy Principal Student.

There were a number of applicants and two worthy candidates made it through to the final stages of the process. Ty's passion for making Leesbrook the best it possibly can; his love of this Academy and belief that he is in a school with "the best students and staff, I know because I have been to other schools and this is definitely the best by a mile", shone through. He told us that he wanted to make a difference to the lives of Leesbrookers who have struggled, like him, and show them that they can succeed and can turn their behaviour around, just like he has. He also told us that he really wants to make something of himself, be a role model and have a great future.

Once again, Ayo and Khizr excelled themselves with their professionalism and management of the interview process. Two fantastic role models.



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Student Principals and Deputy Student Principals!

Congratulations to everyone for getting through the first term of the year. It is always a hard one with it getting dark and cold! We hope you are all doing well and enjoying being part of Leesbrook. We have been really impressed with our new teachers and the Year 7s who joined us in September - it feels like they have always been here.

We recently did our first Anti-Bullying assemblies, which were a bit scary having to speak in front of everyone, but we really enjoyed it and were glad we can share important messages about social media with all our students.

By the way, the new school building is looking great and we can't wait to get in next year!

We want to wish you a safe and joyful holiday. See you in 2020!

Best wishes

Ayo, Khizr, Izzy and Tyreece



Teaching and Learning

At Oasis Academy Leesbrook, Teaching and Learning is our "core business" and as Deputy Principal with responsibility for Quality of Education across the Academy, I have the pleasure of visiting lessons on a daily basis. I am proud to see our staff deliver their curriculum with such enthusiasm and passion, and the effect this has in engaging our students.

You may be aware that as a new "start up" school we are not due our first Ofsted inspection until next year, however we are still subject to regular monitoring from the Department for Education and I am delighted to report some of the findings from their visits.

"There is a very positive learning atmosphere in the academy"

"The senior leadership team are uncompromising in their ambition for their students."

In regards to our staff, they commented "Teachers' subject knowledge is secure and were showing enthusiasm and excitement."

Our teaching and learning policies and procedures continue to be informed by the latest educational research. As a result, this year we have introduced an "instructional coaching" approach to developing our staff so that they can continue to grow as practitioners. Every member of staff has an experienced coach, who visits their lessons regularly and will identify specific areas of pedagogy to practice, and is illustrative of our commitment to ensuring all of our teachers receive the highest quality professional development to ensure the best outcomes for children.

You will shortly receive an update on your child's progress against their targets. We make no apology for setting our students targets that are highly aspirational, and I am confident that our students will achieve these with the support of our dedicated staff who present high levels of challenge to stretch our students on a daily basis.

For example, in a recent evaluation of the English department, visitors were highly impressed with students' knowledge of not just their current text, *Oliver Twist*, but also the wider knowledge and context in which the novel was set. This is demonstrative of our ethos and belief that a holistic approach to education is what serves our young people best. We are passionate that we not only teach our children to pass exams but also build on their cultural capital, and in doing so help students make connections between their learning and the wider world, which contributes to embedding their knowledge into their long term memory.

Mr P Jones

Deputy Principal

7A

It has been such a pleasure getting to know every member of our family group. Everyone has embodied the 9 habits brilliantly this term, in particular compassion, in making our own individual pledges about how we use social media in order to prevent cyberbullying and in donating several shoeboxes for the Manchester Homeless Shoebox Appeal.

Our students have fully immersed themselves into Academy life here at Leesbrook and have taken part in a wide range of Cultural Enrichment clubs. I was amazed to see Zahira, Calab, Iqra, Shami, Khadijah and Sumaiyya all singing in the choir at the Oasis North West Regional Conference. Haris and Dawud have represented our Academy in table tennis and I would like to congratulate Nomsa who became our first Student Councillor.

I am very proud to be 7A's family leader and cannot wait to see what new experiences and challenges await us in the new year.

Mr Gradwell

7L

7L have had an excellent first term at Leesbrook. I am really proud of all of the wonderful work and progress that I have seen so far and have seen lots of examples of the 9 habits from every member of the family group. They work really well together in Family Dining and have been doing lots of cleaning up to make sure we are always nice and tidy!

They have really worked hard in both their lessons and their cultural enrichment – taking up activities like art, piano, football, debate and Duke of Edinburgh, meaning they can develop lots of fantastic skills in year 7!

They have been able to make lots of new friends and are already lovely members of the Leesbrook family – As their family leader I have received lots of positive emails from their teachers including brilliant art work and music work. 7L have also been enjoying their reading time in family time and lots of them have already decided to challenge Ms Fenn to read 20 books for 2020!

Miss Fenn

7P

It is incredible to look at how 7P have grown since September! 7P have made very close friends within the group and across the Academy and have settled into the routines and expectations of Leesbrook.

Our Family Group have participated in Leesbrook's Cultural Enrichment offer with such enthusiasm, with a number of students choosing to do a club every single night! We have students from 7P playing in the football team, singing in the choir and helping teachers run clubs with their knowledge of Origami!

Despite a very close vote, Maisha was elected as our Student Council representative, wowing the rest of the family group with her commitment to improving their lives at Leesbrook and committing to tackling climate change!

It is a joy to be the Family Leader for this wonderful group of students, who can be extremely thoughtful and kind. I cannot wait to see you all continue to grow and become your best selves!

Mr C Jones

7SP

7SP have had an amazing start to life at Leesbrook. Students have settled in really well and have really excelled in the different subjects they are studying. As a family group we are in the top five families for highest attendance. Please keep this up in the new year!

Well done to Ahmet and Hamdan who represented Leesbrook in the Oldham schools table tennis tournament. Daniel and Amirah have also competed in football fixtures for school. This shows great commitment and congratulations on your achievements.

We have also elected Noar as our family representative for Student Council for 7SP! A really close vote with Ibrahim coming second. Thank you to all students who prepared speeches for the elections.

Have a great Christmas and New year!

Mr Schollar

7ST

7ST have really flourished over the last term to make an excellent family. We have shown our Oasis 9 habits, in particular compassion, countless times throughout the term. We have spent time developing initiative, leadership and organisation through our character curriculum and routines. Which has been both rewarding and helpful for all members of the group.

We have been discussing our hopes and dreams for the future; the careers we want to pursue and how we pledge to behave socially. Seeing individuals take on additional responsibilities such as Hamza in Student Council, has been amazing to see and a testament to the character of our Family Group. I am proud of how our Family Group have bonded and I can't wait to see what else 7ST can achieve next term.

Mr Mahfooz

8A

8A have wholeheartedly welcomed me into Leesbrook as their family leader this year. I have been impressed by how resilient they have been with the changes in their family group and how they continue to demonstrate the 9 habits towards each other and new students who join the school.

Great was elected by his peers to become 8A's Student Council representative. This is a fantastic opportunity for Great to be a spokesperson for his family group and I am confident he will excel in this role. Khadijah continually demonstrates her compassion in welcoming new students and making sure they are settled into their new school environment. Mahisha also, has gone above and beyond by assisting new members in our family group by translating into other languages to enable our new Leesbrookers to understand the world around them. Imogen returned to 8A and has worked incredibly hard to focus and be the best version of herself and continually impresses me with her determination.

The family group showed tremendous generosity with the shoebox appeal and donated to help the homeless, with Ayesha taking the added initiative to create her own shoebox full to the brim with items - well done Ayesha!

8A have also joined a variety of extra-curricular activities this year including girls football, digital media, homework club, craft club, girls club and table tennis. They are already eager to see what new extra-curricular activities will be available to them next term!

As 8A's family leader, I am incredibly proud to see how far they have come since September. I look forward to being able to watch them grow in confidence over the rest of the school year.

Miss Choudhary

8P

8M

8M have settled into school wonderfully. This term we have spent time in Family Time looking at the structure of debating and how it aids communication. We have also focussed on kindness and have discussed ways we can show kindness to others. For our House Focus, we have studied and listened to some amazing genres of music! In addition, we have appointed Abeeha to continue to be our Student Council representative.

Finally, 8M continue to uphold the highest expectations and always lead by example. I look forward to what the rest of year has in store for them!

Miss Begum

8P have been enthusiastic as always. They have proved their resilience and ownership for behaviour after a mixed start to the term by taking accountability for behaviour, which has had some positive impacts on their academic progress. This has been evident in their R.E lessons with myself when discussing extremism and terrorism. They hold a genuine interest in current affairs and issues in our local and global world and this is also evident in their contributions in our weekly news of the week. They show empathy, curiosity and a passion for learning which has enabled them to build their arguments and opinions.

As a family group we are developing closer bonds and building an empathetic attitude towards each other, which is endearing to see. We have welcomed new students to our family group and we have deeply missed the presence of one student in particular.

Miss Naz

8SP

8SP have continued to bond as a family this term, especially during Family Dining where they are consistently demonstrating one of our Oasis 9 habits; Considerate. Each day we sit and dine together, discussing our interests, dreams and future wishes and then all the students clean their tables, which is admirable.

We have once again proved that we are compassionate, contributing the most boxes to the Manchester Homeless Shoebox Appeal in which we all donated items for those less fortunate than ourselves, to open on Christmas Day. You have no idea the impact this will make!

We have engaged in Character Curriculum during Family Time and really enjoyed the session on debating. I am going to miss you all over Christmas but I'm excited to start reading our new book in the new year; "Little Badman and the invasion of the killer Aunties!"

Mr S Jones



8ST

8ST have really excelled over the last term to make some excellent progress. We have shown our Oasis 9 habits, countless times throughout the term. We have spent time developing initiative, leadership and organisation; through our character curriculum and routines, which has been amazing and helpful for our family group.

We have been discussing our hopes and dreams for the future; the careers we want to pursue and how we pledge to behave socially. We had opportunities to elect a member of our family group for student council which has shown a commitment and a testament to the character of our Family Group. I can't wait to see what else 8ST can achieve next term with some big targets that we have set.

Mrs Mahmood

9L

A busy half-term for 9L as we welcomed new members into our Family Group, but overall a successful one. Thank you to students who have been their usual amazing selves throughout!

Teachers have mentioned that 9L are patient and considerate, as well as extremely hard-working.

City in the Community participants have been amazing on the programme, well done all!

It has been mentioned by Learning Support Worker, Miss Lowe, what AMAZING behaviour and attitudes were shown when 9L visited the Etihad Stadium for the day.

Miss Holmes

9P

9P have settled in well this term. We are proud to have contributed to the Christmas box charity by giving 4 boxes this year to help homeless people in our area. We all get along well together. 9P enjoy Cultural Enrichment, particularly sports, and we have been involved in extra music lessons. We've chosen our options for GCSE and we're looking forward to starting them in Year 10. We've organised our own Secret Santa where we give presents anonymously to people we picked out.

Have a wonderful Christmas. Hope you enjoy your Secret Santa presents, look after yourselves over Christmas, and have a lovely relaxing time with your families watching Christmas films, which I know you love to do! I'll see you in the new year.

Mrs Slater

9ST

I have had the amazing privilege to be able to teach 9ST for Art this year, as well as continuing to be their family group leader. It has been wonderful to get to watch them grow and develop in a subject that I am so passionate about. It really has brought us all closer together as a group and fostered a real enthusiasm for art as a class.

I have also enjoyed our class discussions during our weekly Character Curriculum and News lessons in family time. 9ST are always so eloquent in the way they can construct debates and express opinions whilst also being very respectful of other peoples' views. This has been especially obvious in our weekly task of writing down and telling the class who is special to us in our lives and why. 9ST have been so heart-warmingly honest and open and always love hearing who each other has written about, often clapping and cheering for each other afterwards. As a teacher, it has been a real highlight of my career so far, seeing a group of teenagers applaud open discussions about feelings. 9ST you are amazing!

Miss Webster

Character Curriculum

In Year 7 our Leesbrookers have made an excellent start to the year, examining what organisation is, why it is important and the new challenges associated with starting secondary school. They have examined what true kindness is and how kindness benefits our mental health, as well as considering what harmful actions are and how they impact people and our community.

Year 8 have explored what leadership is: the characteristics of a good leader, how we lead others and how we put together a team. They have examined the skills linked with debate and how we formulate clear and convincing arguments, all the while listening to others.

Year 9 have completed important work looking at oracy and leadership skills – how we interact with others through body language and spoken language, how we motivate ourselves and others and how we provide sensitive feedback to others.

As part of our Character Curriculum, all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in an extended workshop on Cyberbullying. Important, mature and sensitive work was completed around the issues of cyberbullying, responsible use of social media, and the links between mental health and social media. Every student concluded this workshop by writing their own Leesbrook Social Media Pledge, which are now displayed around school.

Mrs Ridley

Art

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls"

Pablo Picasso

I have been hugely impressed with the standard of artwork produced across all three year groups and it a privilege to be able to share the progress our students are making with regular updates on our Instagram account @leesbrookart. As well as celebrating our students' achievements, we also invite students to comment on each other's work and offer words of encouragement. I would ask that as many parents and students as possible to follow us in Instagram to see what our wonderful Leesbrookers are up to!

Recently Year 7s have been studying one of the most influential artists of the 20th Century, Pablo Picasso. Students have explored the practical techniques favoured by Picasso, developing their understanding of the formal elements of tone, colour, shape and composition. Not only this, students have started to discover the social and artistic influences that drove Picasso to continually experiment and innovate throughout his lifetime.

Year 8s have had an equally busy start to their year, promoting cross curricular links with MFL. Students have created their very own artwork for a "Dia de los Muertos" (Day of the Dead) display, as well as exploring the history of this rich tradition that originated in Mexico. Following on from this our Year 8 students have begun a portraiture project in which they will study a wide range of historical and contemporary styles.

Year 9s have studied the work of LS Lowry; an artist with very strong links to our region with his famous depictions of urban life in Manchester and surrounding areas. As well as looking at some of his practical techniques, we have analysed the meaning of his work and how it aims to describe some of the difficulties faced by working class people in post war Britain.

Mr P Jones



English & Drama

Is this a play which I see before me?

As many parents will be aware, we are committed to maintaining rigour and challenge in our English assessments and curriculum, as well as providing extracurricular opportunities that will excite and engage our students. This term we had the pleasure of combining both drama and English in a joint trip that benefited our Year 9s, who will be studying Macbeth as part of their GCSEs next year.

As part of the trip, a group of Year 9 students got a chance to see a production of the play Macbeth, interview the cast and have a go at acting themselves on stage with the professionals! It was a joy to see our students engage so well with the play and the actors and show a real enthusiasm for careers in the creative arts. In light of the upcoming options choices for Year 9, we wanted to showcase what careers in drama are available to them through the trip. However, given that all students will study Macbeth at GCSE, there was also an explicit focus on the study of the play and how to best remember characters and quotations. Students thoroughly enjoyed the play and it was a really enjoyable experience. We were particularly proud of Principal Student Ayo who got up on stage and participated in some live acting, as well as Daniel from 9P who also had a turn on stage.

Our Leesbrook family has shown real engagement and love for Shakespeare and we are so proud of them all. For those students who missed out on the trip to the theatre this time, keep an eye out for our upcoming trip in March to see Macbeth at The Globe theatre in London. This upcoming trip will be open to ALL students on a first come, first served basis. Our trip to The Globe last year was a real highlight in the English calendar so this year's trip is sure to be an exciting trip for all involved!

Miss Lownds, Miss Choudhary & Miss Fenn

History

This term our Year 7s have been studying the story of England. We have explored how England 'began' and who the English really are. We have examined how the Romans, Celts, Vikings and Saxons came to England, and the story and historical sources surrounding the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Our Year 8 students have been examining the events leading up to World War I, including the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and the system of alliances in Europe in 1914. We have also explored the nature of warfare in 1914, from the conditions of the trenches to the weapons used.

Year 9 have been studying America in the 1920s and the significant changes during this 'roaring' 20s period. They have examined the changing lifestyles of American society through exploration of the flappers, prohibition and the spread of jazz and cinema. They have explored the cycle of prosperity and economic growth through studying the use of assembly lines and the developments in technology.

Miss Naz

Geography

Geography at Leesbrook has really taken off with students across all year groups being engaged with our unique curriculum.

Year 7 have focused on Manchester as a case study, thinking about how different elements of the city make it such a special place. We have examined Manchester's past during the industrial revolution, looked at Manchester's Cultural Hubs and thought about some of the famous people who have shaped Manchester into the city that it is today. We have done this while developing key geographical skills. Next term, Year 7 will be focusing on Development across the world.

Year 8 have been examining Dark Tourism sites across the world, such as Chernobyl, Fukushima and Auschwitz, thinking about why tourists go to places associated with death and suffering and the impact, both positive and negative on the area. Next term, Year 8 will be moving on to examine Our Earth as a Resource, focusing on energy, water and food.

Year 9 have spent this term considering the health of populations across the world. This began by investigating a number of diseases across the world such as HIV, Malaria and Ebola, and questioning why they occur in these places and what can be done to prevent it. We then moved on to look at different healthcare systems across the world and how pharmaceutical companies play a large role in the health of certain populations. Next term, Year 9 will be focusing on the geography of the Arctic, asking ourselves whether the 'Arctic will ever be the same again?'. We will be looking at how climate change is changing the human and physical landscape of the region and going back in time to look at the area during the last ice age.

Mr C Jones

Mathematics

Before they arrived, our year 7s showed us what an amazing year group they were going to be by making pictures using various two dimensional shapes. Their creativity is amazing.

Year 7 have spent the start of the year learning all about time and how numbers relate to one another – using complicated vocabulary. They also had the chance to make a board game to test their skills.

Year 8 began this year working hard identifying prime numbers and using divisibility tests. This half term, year 8 have been applying their knowledge of negative numbers to real life scenarios, such as temperature differences. At the moment, we are looking at how we can solve problems using algebra.

Year 9 have spent this term looking at sequences. In the first half term this was in the form of linear graphs, including identifying co-ordinates. This half term we have looked at how we continue sequences and find the general rule for a sequence. We have even touched on quadratic sequences – excellent work year 9! Now we are moving on to algebraic manipulation.

Every week all of our Leesbrookers complete a Review of the Week. This is an eight question quiz based on everything we have learnt that week. This allows us to see what topics we can do and what we need to work on. This is a great way for us to keep track of how well we are doing and make sure we all make excellent progress.

This year we have really triumphed the use of Hegarty Maths! Every week students are set a task on Hegarty Maths to complete. They must watch a video and then complete the quiz. This is a superb tool for our students to use, not only for homework but for revision too. MemRi tasks act as extra revision as they are personalised tasks for each student based on any incorrect answers they give during the quizzes they complete. Some students are doing these every week – well done!

Thank-you to all of our wonderful students for a fantastic first term in Maths and for all of your hard work.

Mrs Fletcher, Miss Begum & Miss Jenkins



R.E

Year 7 have been studying Identity. They have looked closely at how clothes, food and ceremonies that take place within different religions link with the formation of a person's identity. They have been introduced to welcoming ceremonies such as Aqiqah's and Baptisms whilst also developing their knowledge of the various food rules such as 'Kosher' and 'Halal' and applied this in their writing about religious identity. They have also explored how clothes link with our expression of identity, by studying examples such as the Turban, Hijab and Crucifix.

Year 8 have been studying Extremism and Terrorism. They have looked at examples of terrorism throughout history. They have closely examined the causes of extremism and the issues extremism can pose. This has been linked to examples locally as well as internationally, by discussing various extremist groups such as ISIS and the EDL. Students have studied both Christian and Islamic teachings and attitudes towards war and conflict and discussed how terrorist groups can use religion as a political tool.

Year 9 have examined the challenging subject of conflict in Gaza, Israel and Palestine. They have considered the causes of conflict in general and why conflict can be difficult to end. They have then explored the nature of suffering in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank, before looking at religious attitudes to peace and the work of Wahat-al-Salam/Neve Shalom/Oasis of Peace in Israel, which aims to unite communities through celebrating their differences.

Mrs Ridley

Science

It has been a year of fun and learning for our Leesbrookers in Science. We have had our chemist lab coats on, traveling the world through a chemical lens. Working with Jodrell bank for investigative work and with Mad Science doing some interesting experiments. Our Year 7 students have delved deeper into the chemical world and investigated what the world around us is made out of by learning about Particles and The Types of Reactions.

Whereas our Year 8 students have been applying their expert Year 7 knowledge and exploring the Periodic Table and Chemical Reactions and the Environment.

Further to this, our Year 9 students have been focusing on the Fundamentals of Chemistry and exploring Investigative Chemistry.

Finally, to give our young Leesbrookers a taste of examinations we have conducted Science exams mimicking real GCSE exam style formats where our students showed off their excellent behaviour and attitude to practice for exam conditions.

It has been fantastic to see so many students developing, participating and trying their very best in every lesson and this has led to students regularly being rewarded.

Mrs Mahmood & Mr Mahfooz

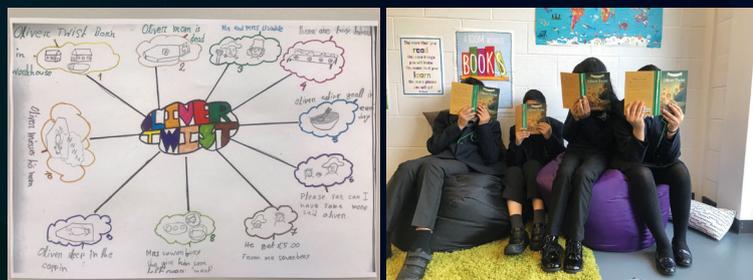
Transition Centre

What a busy first term we have had in the Transition Centre! Year 7s have written, acted and read their way through the whole of Oliver Twist. All of our transition group have worked incredibly hard this term but one student who really stood out to all of us was Iftekhar.

He arrived at Leesbrook in September speaking very little English but after only 3 short months his spoken and written English has improved dramatically. He has written his own version of Oliver Twist in his own time and can tell you absolutely anything you could wish to know about the story!

Well done Iftekhar! What a super start to your journey at Leesbrook. We can't wait to see what next term brings for all of our students in the Transition Centre!

Miss Leach



Design & Technology

This half term, Year 7 and 8 have been working on a Graphics project based on the theme of wildlife. They have designed and made gift bags using new techniques and have created some fantastic products. Year 9 have been working on a pop-up card project on the theme on monsters. They have almost finished.

Next half term, Year 7 will be starting a textiles project on the same theme of wildlife. Year 8 are already well underway with their soft toys learning applique and embroidery skills, and some amazing work is already underway. Year 9 are going to make fleece hats and will learn how to use fabric paint, embroidery techniques and applique.

Mrs Slater & Miss Webster

Trips & Events

Languages Live

The highlight of the half term for Miss Holmes & Mr Gradwell was the trip to Languages Live in London on 18th November.

The event consisted of talks, performances and demonstrations for people who love languages. There were also a number of exhibitors which gave our Leesbrookers an insight into how they can put their languages to work in the future should they want careers as interpreters and translators, for example.

Miss Holmes & Mr Gradwell



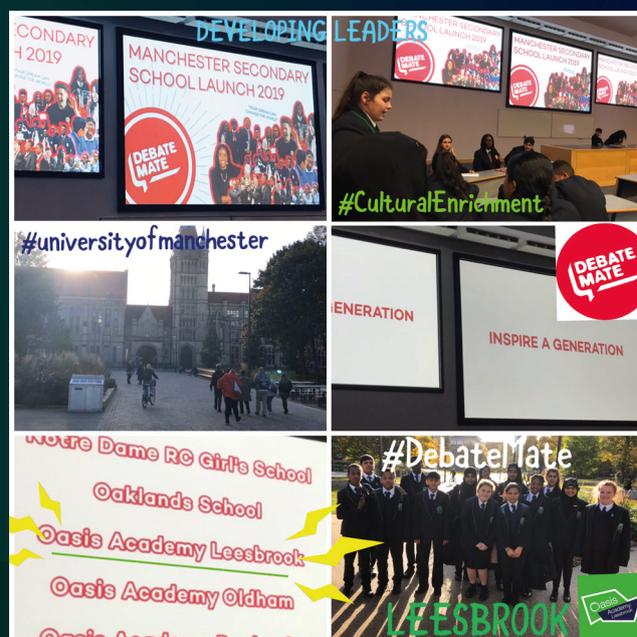
Debate Mate Launch

On Wednesday 16th October 2019, some of Leesbrook's aspiring debaters attended the launch event for Debate Mate at the University of Manchester.

Here, students got a chance to learn about the start of our exciting Debate Mate programme, watch a live show debate and ask some insightful floor questions!

We are now looking forward to our debating mentors to begin coaching our debate team in preparation for competitions in Manchester. In the words of one of our students at the event – "this is our future, it is important that we have a voice!"

Mr Schollar

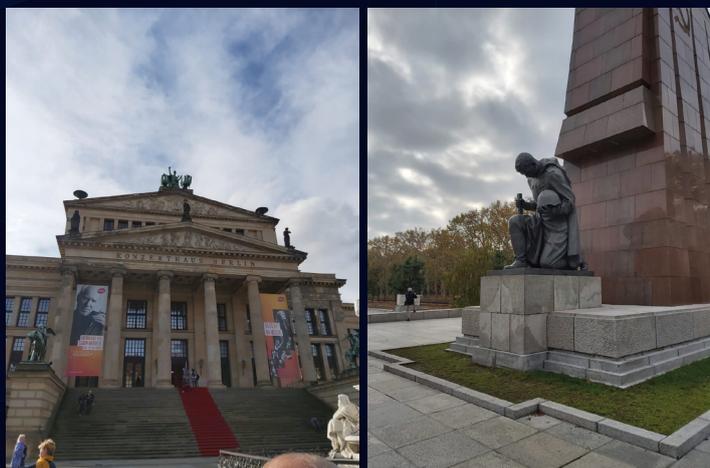


Schools: Fit for the Future with German

Our Curriculum Leader for MFL, Miss Holmes, visited Berlin in July to attend the "Schools: Fit for the Future with German" trip, which was a fantastic opportunity with very limited spaces.

Whilst in Germany, I visited the Soviet War Memorial to remember the 70,000 Soviet soldiers who died during the wars. I also visited Parliament where I got to speak to other teachers about the education in Germany, as well as many other main attractions!

Miss Holmes



Macbeth at the North West Theatre Arts Company

The trip to North West Theatre Arts Company to see Macbeth went very well. All students managed to get something out of the experience, which was great.

Students, Ayo and Daniel, both got up during the workshop and had a go at acting with the cast. Something neither of them will ever forget!

Following the performance there was a Q&A session and our students asked some really good questions about where the cast went to college and the advice they would give to aspiring young actors.

Wonderful trip!

Miss Lownds



CITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Some of our Year 9s have been taking part in the "City in the Community" programme every Tuesday in school. At the end of November, the students were invited to the Etihad stadium to take part in a training session with three members of the Manchester City and England Women's Team. Our Leesbrookers were noted as being the most well dressed and smartest out of all the schools who took part that day and not to mention, well mannered and exceptionally behaved throughout the day.

One of our students, Liban, even scored a goal from one side of the pitch to the other. We at Leesbrook are very proud.

Miss Lowe



Vodafone Digital Challenge - Build an App in a Day!



Leesbrookers wrote a letter of application to be a part of this exciting project!

Congratulations to those selected students who then spent a day at the Vodafone HQ, Media City, building a new mobile application to help the Oldham community.

They have until the end of January to submit their design - we are really looking forward to the final products. We definitely have some future Google computer programmers here at Leesbrook!

Miss Jenkins



Careers

At Oasis Academy Leesbrook, we believe that the right kind of careers education is not only the key to future success, but has the power to be truly transformational in the lives of our students. All our students will be given advice about the relevance of their subject specialisms in terms of jobs and careers pathways, in addition to being trained in the options available for Post-16 Education, from T Levels to A Levels and Apprenticeships. Leesbrookers will experience and explore a wide range of aspirational opportunities throughout their education with us.

Year 9 Options and Career Guidance

The first half term of the academic year has been really busy for Leesbrookers regards aspirations and careers. Year 9 have begun the options process, thinking about the subjects they would like to study at GCSE. These choices are going to be really important for the future of our students and the pathways they will embark on in the coming years. To help them, students and families attended our options evening. As part of this event they received advice from teachers and from charitable trust, Positive Steps, to help them think big for the future.



POSITIVE STEPS
SUPPORT | CHALLENGE | CHANGE

This work continued in the classroom as Positive Steps attended Family Time talks to provide students further help with regards to their options choices providing information on career pathways and how the students option choices will impact on these. Year 9 students have also had 1-1 guidance to help inspire them and think big for the future.

Aspirational Experiences

Leesbrookers have been involved in many aspirational trips this term. All experiences are linked to subject areas but give our students the opportunities to engage with industries and higher education. A trip to the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester to promote the range of careers available in the performing arts industry took place in November. Year 9 students were also invited to Oldham University Campus to speak to local young business entrepreneurs about the opportunities open to them.

Year 8 took part in our Teen Tech STEM day in early November. All family groups worked in teams to develop communities for the future. They used planning, communication and organisation skills to make their building designs. Well done to all year 8's!

Our debate club visited Manchester University to take part in the Debate Mate launch. Students observed a real debate to help them learn how to conduct a debating activity ready to bring back to Leesbrook. They are now working with their mentors who are Manchester University Undergraduates.



Finally, Languages live took place in London which engaged Leesbrookers in world of languages. The day focussed on the importance of learning languages and celebrated embracing languages from around the world. Students engaged activities around the different careers languages can bring.

Careers opportunities next term

Mission the Higher education – Cultural Enrichment Club

Girls only STEM Club – Leading to GENIUS STEM day in January

Barclays Life Skills Club

Changing Horizons – Careers fair at Queen Elizabeth Hall

National Careers Week – March 2nd to March 6th

A 'golden' moment in Leesbrook's History!

On 21st November, we had the honour of being present at the Golden Bolt event at the new Oasis Leesbrook building. This was due to be an important moment in the history of our school and we were all excited to be there. In attendance were Mrs Livesey, Mr S Jones and Principal Students, Khizr Ali & Ayo Adekeye; Deputy Student Principal, Tyreece White and year 7 student, Charlotte Brookes. We were able to add the final touches to the steel frame and get a chance to see the inside of the new school.

Upon arrival at the site, we met key individuals from Galliford Try such as the designer of the building, the site manager and the regional director for Oasis North, Mrs Arya. During the meeting we were told that good progress is being made on the building and that all the steel structure to the building had been completed. It was exciting to see the huge progress that had been made and to be able to see where our classrooms and the main entrance to the building would be.

After meeting key individuals we were extremely honoured to go and put the 'golden bolt' in the building, the final bolt that commemorated the end of that phase of the construction. It was exciting to be a part of such an important moment in our school's history and, despite the cold, we were all happy to be there and witness it in person.

At the end of the day we were all given KitKats and chocolate chip biscuits to help us calm down from all the excitement (and recover from the cold). It was a fascinating experience and one we will all remember for a long time.

By Ayo, Khizr and Tyreece



New Build Update



Our new purpose built building is on track to be completed early July 2020. Our builders, Galliford Try have been instrumental with ensuring that we have the very best facilities for our Leesbrookers next year. No stone is being left unturned.

Our students have attended a 'Golden Bolt' event, which meant that they fitted the very last bolt in the main infrastructure; a colossal and significant moment earmarked in history. The roof is scheduled to be on by Christmas and then work will start on the internal aspects of the building. It truly is remarkable.

If you have any questions regarding the new build, please contact Mr S Jones (sam.jones@oasisleesbrook.org) who will be happy to update you, where possible.

Mr S Jones

Parent Queries

Whilst we endeavour to respond to all parent queries as quickly as possible, please do bear in mind that whilst our staff are teaching and safeguarding your wonderful children, it may not always be possible to come back to you immediately. We will however, aim to respond to all parent queries within 24 hours.

ParentPay & ClassCharts

We still have outstanding monies to be paid by a number of parents. All debts will be shown on your ParentPay account so please login to check. Please make your outstanding payments via ParentPay or provide your child with cash so that they can add it to the cashloader located in Student Services in the Academy. ParentPay is used as a means of communication between the Academy and parents/carers in regards to school dinners, trips and payment options so please do make sure you have an account set up.

ClassCharts is another way that we are able to communicate with parents/carers in regards to Corrections (detentions). Please ensure you have created a ClassCharts account so that you can be immediately notified if your child is issued with a correction.

If you have any problems or queries regarding ParentPay or ClassCharts, please call Miss Dean on 0161 290 4000.

Mrs Dean
Receptionist / Administrator



Uniform Expectations

Compulsory items as modelled by our Student Principals, Khizr & Ayo.

- Navy blue blazer, green piping, with Oasis Academy Leesbrook badge
- White collared school shirt
- Oasis Academy Leesbrook v-neck jumper
- Oasis Academy Leesbrook tie
- Black tailored trousers (skinny trousers, jeans or leggings are not permitted) or knee length skirt (skirt must sit on the knee and not be any shorter. Tube/mini/lycra skirts are not permitted)
- Black polishable formal shoes (trainers/pumps are not permitted. Please check the soles on any shoes to ensure they are not 'trainer style'. Only a small heel will be permitted. Boots are not permitted)
- Plain black ankle socks or tights. Knee length socks or socks that pull over the knee are not permitted.
- School bag in black or navy (must be large enough to carry an A4 folder and must be a back pack or record bag style. Bags must not be 'handbag' style)



Our blazer, jumper and tie can only be purchased from Zuttis, 81-83 Yorkshire Street, Oldham OL1 3ST, Tel: 0161 665 1016.

The below appearance rules must also be adhered to:

- Only natural hair colours, no extreme colours
- No tramlines in hair or eyebrows
- Hair no shorter than a Number 2 shave
- One pair of small silver or gold pierced studs to be worn in the earlobes. No facial or other piercings
- No henna or artificial tattoos/body ink
- No artificial/false nails or gel nails/gel colours
- No nail varnish
- Make up may be minimal (natural concealer or foundation only)
- No false eyelashes

Corrections

With regards to Corrections (detentions), there will be a 30 minute Correction Monday and Friday between 2:30PM and 3:00PM and on Tuesday - Thursday 3:00PM and 3:30PM.

If your child has broken the Oasis Academy Leesbrook expectations or has acted in a manner that contravenes our code of conduct they will receive an immediate Correction. This will be recorded in their planner and on class charts. There is an additional 60 minute Leadership detention on Friday afternoon from 2:30-3:30PM. If a child fails to attend a correction then they will be expected to complete it again alongside an additional sanction.

This is all outlined in our Home Academy Agreement signed by parents/carers during Student Admission.

Mr Dixon

Attendance & Pastoral Manager

Student Attendance

We wish to continue working in partnership with parents/carers, seeking your full support in ensuring that your child attends the Academy every day. We are always pleased to work together with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties but we are also committed to improving attendance levels at Oasis Academy Leesbrook.

The target attendance figure for all students is a minimum of 96% attendance. Your child will be informed of their Attendance Group every week.

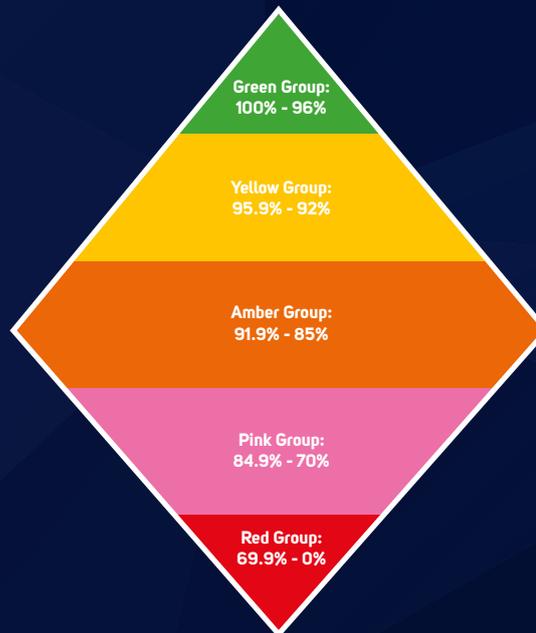
Group 1: No Concern - Green Group
The child attends for 97% - 100% of the time.

Group 2: Concern - Yellow Group
The child attends for 95% - 96.9% of the time.

Group 3: Risk of Underachievement - Amber Group
The child attends for 93% - 94.9% of the time.

Group 4: Severe Risk of Underachievement - Pink Group
The child attends for 90% - 92.9% of the time.

Group 5: Extreme Risk of Underachievement - Red Group
The child attends for 0% - 89.9% of the time.



Regular attendance is not just a legal requirement, but it is vital for students to maximize their learning, and achieve full potential here at Oasis Academy Leesbrook.

If no contact is received regarding any absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. Ultimately the Academy is responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not. Only genuine absence will be authorised. You will be asked to provide medical evidence if your child has a poor attendance record.

Attendance Matters

Sol Attendance
Sustainable Impact

100%	0 DAYS	0 LESSONS MISSED
99%	1 DAY	5 LESSONS MISSED
98%	3 DAYS	15 LESSONS MISSED
97%	1 WEEK	25 LESSONS MISSED
96%	1.5 WEEKS	35 LESSONS MISSED
94%	2 WEEKS	50 LESSONS MISSED
93%	2.5 WEEKS	65 LESSONS MISSED
92%	3 WEEKS	75 LESSONS MISSED
90%	3.5 WEEKS	90 LESSONS MISSED

**MAXIMISE YOUR POTENTIAL.
ATTEND SCHOOL EVERY DAY.**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS:

Please can you ensure the following in relation to Attendance and Punctuality:

- Ensure that medical appointments are made outside of Academy time.
- Holidays should not be taken in Academy time. Holidays will not be authorised during term time.
- Respond to Academy letters or telephone calls regarding attendance and punctuality.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to achieve the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality at Oasis Academy Leesbrook.

Mr Pickering
Assistant Pastoral Manager

Staff Updates

Senior Leadership Team

Principal - Mrs Livesey

Deputy Principal / Teacher of Art - Mr P Jones

Assistant Principal / Special Educational Needs (SEN) Lead - Miss Jenkins

Assistant Principal / Attendance & Pastoral Manager - Mr Dixon

Assistant Principal (secondment) / Behaviour for Learning Lead / Curriculum Leader for PE & Wellbeing - Mr S Jones

Teaching & Middle Leadership Team

Curriculum Leader for English/Literacy - Miss Lownds

Curriculum Leader for Mathematics/Numeracy - Mrs Fletcher

Curriculum Leader for Humanities/SMSC - Mrs Ridley

Curriculum Leader for MFL - Miss Holmes

Curriculum Leader for Technology & Art - Mrs Slater

Teacher of English - Miss Choudhary

Teacher of English - Miss Fenn

Teacher of Mathematics - Miss Begum

Teacher of Science - Mrs Mahmood

Teacher of Science - Mr Mahfooz

Teacher of Humanities - Miss Naz

Teacher of Humanities (Geography) - Mr C Jones

Teacher of MFL - Mr Gradwell

Teacher of Technology - Miss Webster

Teacher of PE & Wellbeing/Transition & Student Experience/Careers - Mr Schollar

Teacher of Music - Mr Lees

Teacher of Transition & Nurture - Miss Leach

Admin and Support Team

PA to the Principal & Human Resources Lead - Mrs H Murphy

Receptionist/Administrator - Miss Dean

Teaching Assistant - Miss Begum

Teaching Assistant - Mr Mahmood

Teaching Assistant - Mrs Rahman

Teaching Assistant - Mrs S Murphy

Learning Support Assistant - Miss Lowe

Assistant Pastoral Manager - Mr Pickering

Commando Joe's Instructor - Mr Evans

Site Manager - Mr Blaxall

New Starters

Curriculum Leader for Science - Miss Tellal

Receptionist/Administrator - Mrs Akhtar

Cover Supervisor - Miss Firdos

Cover Supervisor - Mrs Jubb

Congratulations to the below staff for securing posts in addition to their current roles! These posts are all part of our mission to help and develop the excellent provision that we've already got at Leesbrook!

Home Learning Development Lead - Miss Fenn

Transition Team Member - Mr Gradwell & Mrs S Murphy

Parent & Community Engagement Forum Lead - Miss Choudhary

Cultural Enrichment

At Oasis Academy Leesbrook we feel really passionate that students have an outstanding experience outside of the classroom that will help shape their education and future. We value the importance of opening our students up to every possible opportunity in life, and with hard work, we know they can reach their goals.

Cultural Enrichment provides an opportunity after school to take part in new activities and develop students holistically, ready for when they become future leaders in our community. These activities and clubs can further support their education, develop new skills or continue to feed their passions and interests.

All students are required to attend two cultural enrichment clubs per week and must attend that club until the end of that half term. There is no limit to how many activities they can experience in a week with over 37 different clubs to choose from. The more clubs they attend the better! We offer a range of different activities each day from physical activity, languages, STEM clubs to choir, craft club and debate. Please look at the timetable on the back page of this newsletter (or on www.oasisacademyleesbrook.org) to see what's on offer from January 2020!

This term students have chosen a range of different clubs to take part in. We regularly have over a hundred Leesbrookers engaging after school, which is amazing! Activities such as debate mate, badminton, craft club, photography and Duke of Edinburgh award have all been really well attended from September up to the Christmas break. We have also been given the opportunity to work alongside MAHDLO youth club and a selection of students have attended their gym and climbing clubs.

Mr Schollar

Student Experience Lead

Arts & Minds Club

We've had lots of fun in Arts and Minds Club this term but my favourite session by far was planned and delivered by one of our amazing year 7s who taught us all to make these wonderful moving Christmas wreath/stars. Thank you Mckai for sharing your super talents with us!

Miss Leach



Chess Club

A huge thank you to our enthusiastic students who have regularly attended Chess Club this term, it has been a true joy to lead the club. We have started to develop our skills and have enjoyed a number of mini 'speed' tournaments, with Dawood from 8P often emerging victorious.

As well as Chess masters, we are increasingly becoming good at Articulate with fierce competition every week. Ahmet from Year 7 has recently joined Chess Club and has shown his skill beating all of us with ease, much to the disgruntlement of the older students!

Mr C Jones

Craft Club

This term in craft club, students have been introduced to paper flower art, origami and card making. They have excelled themselves in their creativity and originality when creating personalised cards and intricate origami designs.

Miss Choudhary



Leesbrook Choir

The Choir have given two impressive performances already this term! They received an excellent review at the Oasis Regional Conference (performing twice in front of over 500 Oasis staff!). They were then invited to open the Salvation Army's Christmas Markets at the end of November which helped us all get into the festive spirit!

Miss Jenkins



Culture Club!

As part of culture club this term we have been studying the ancient Greeks. Students had the opportunity to watch the Disney movie, Hercules, before learning the real story behind the film. Students then followed this up by creating their own works of art focused on the Greek Gods.

While many of these larger pieces are still a work in progress, we're hoping to put the finished pieces on display around the school! Featured opposite is Al-Ameen and his work on Medusa!

Miss Lownds

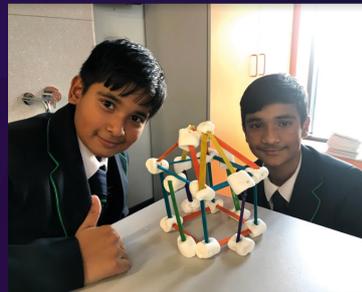


Duke of Edinburgh Club

We initially focused on team building and leadership skills through a variety of activities including building towers out of Marshmallows and lollipop sticks.

We are now improving our ability to read Ordnance Survey maps in preparation for going on walks in the local area. We have been lucky to have Shaun Knowles from MAHDLO working with us during our DofE club, and we hope to be getting this fantastic group into the outdoors in the new year!

Mr C Jones



Photography Club

This term our budding photographers have been experimenting with the composition of more abstract photography, based around the work of Michael Kenna. We have learnt how to frame a shot and the edit it to create the perfect end result.

Miss Webster



Spanish Club

My favourite hour of the week so far this year has definitely been Spanish club! I have loved being able to share aspects of Spanish culture and language with some of our eager students here at Leesbrook. We made some amazing piñatas and as our group grew bigger, we focused on lots of different elements of Spanish-speaking culture, such as the day of the dead in Mexico, and of course, we listened to some of our favourite tunes!

Enjoy the holidays and I cannot wait to carry on in the New Year!

¡Muchas gracias!

Mr Gradwell



Sports Clubs

Students' participation and willingness to undertake PE cultural enrichment is admirable. They really do enjoy their sport! This term we have witnessed some great achievements in Table Tennis, Badminton and Football.

All students have demonstrated resilience, patience and sportsmanship in both victory and defeat; as a result, some students have been rewarded to trips to Manchester City & Manchester United to watch their first time live in action. We are proud of every single one of you.

Mr S Jones & Mr Schollar



STEM Club

This is a really popular club with over 70 students participating. Students have been measuring rooms using an electronic gauge, and they have completed an electronic circuit activity, which they really enjoyed. They are currently making volcanoes from paper mache and will be putting a solution inside to make 'lava'. Students will be able to carry on with STEM after Christmas.

Next half term – Technology will be running a Textiles club, which fits alongside our Textiles lessons this half term. This is aimed at helping interested students to learn more difficult techniques.

Miss Webster has been running a successful Photography Club throughout Autumn term. Our students have really enjoyed it and have displayed their work in the Art and Technology corridor.

Mrs Slater



Cultural Enrichment Timetable, January 2020

Working in partnership with Oldham Athletic & Mahdlo Youth Zone



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Homework Club	Homework Club	Homework Club	Homework Club	Homework Club
Girls Football with Oldham Athletic	Culture Club	GCSE Art Club	Girls Club	Boys Football
Climbing Club with Mahdlo	Messy Art Club	Debate Mate	Spanish Club	Chess Club
Maths Clinic	German Club	Badminton Club	Netball Club	Guitar Club
ICT Club	Maths Film Club	Mindfulness Club	DofE with Mahdlo	Gym Club with Mahdlo
Student Council – last Monday of the month	STEM Club	Business & Enterprise Club	Arts & Minds Club	
	Piano Club		Textiles Club	
			Dance Club	
			Student Principals / Student Leadership Team – every other week	
			Choir	

"The Academy will **close on Friday 20th December 2019 at 12.15pm**. We will re-open to all students on Tuesday 7th January 2020, serving FREE breakfast in the Dining Hall from 7.45am.

We wish all our students, parents and carers a wonderful and restful break.

