



# The Lion Works School Parent Newsletter No.3

TLWS

Autumn Term 1 – 2022 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2022



Ms Lyon - Headteacher

Dear Parents,

It's been a wonderfully positive, albeit very busy start to the new school year. We have welcomed two new students, two new members of staff and completed whole school training in KCSiE 2022 and Positive Behaviour Support. We have hosted successful visits from Dorset and BCP Safeguarding Advisors and Dorset's Education Challenge Lead. We have been told today that our safeguarding systems, processes and practices are "effective". We have all worked so hard to ensure that all our record keeping is in place and that staff are trained and confident in their duty to safeguard all our students. We have now had this externally recognised and externally quality assured by two placing authorities. We know that the Ofsted report was not an easy read and that many of you felt it bore little resemblance to your experiences of the school and we really appreciate all of your support through this. We will welcome Ofsted's return visit and look forward to receiving more case studies from you.

## News Updates:

We continue to implement the actions from our Post Inspection Action Plan (PIAP) which now informs our much more detailed School Development Plan (SDP). The school is forging ahead with its school improvement journey and we are pleased you are all on this journey with us. We are asking you to help us with some feedback on our reporting systems that are under review. We are conscious of the need to balance teacher workload whilst providing you with meaningful and purposeful reports and effective home / school liaison. We will be sending you a Google form to respond to by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> please to inform our next steps with this and will keep you updated.

Our KS4 students visited their local community this term to experience a Volunteer Fair led by the Community Action Network (CAN) in Poole. CAN advertise lots of local volunteering opportunities ranging from animal surveys to events manager to fundraising. This was an excellent opportunity for our KS4 to start thinking about various opportunities and pathways to prepare themselves for the world of work. We browsed the stalls and engaged with the public, enquiring about the different events we could get involved with. We learnt about various clubs and groups in Poole, some of which we may be able to take part in next year as a school community. Miss Edington and Mrs Davey were so impressed with our student's ability to speak to new people, face a busy town centre and take an active interest in the stalls on display. If you'd like to browse all the volunteering opportunities on offer, you can find some here: [Search for volunteering opportunities | Community Action Network \(can100.org\)](https://www.can100.org/)

Today, we celebrated the beginning of 'Jeans for Genes' <https://www.jeansforgenes.org/> week in assembly and raised some money for this worthy cause. Thank you for supporting us with this endeavour.

Finally for this newsletter, we are aware that **Ambitious about Autism** has a new online Youth Network for young people between 16 and 25 with an autism diagnosis. The platform is a safe and moderated online space for autistic young people to help them understand their autistic identity and connect with others. If they are already 16, why not encourage your son / daughter to: [Join the Ambitious Youth Network | Home \(ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk\)](https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/), or please pass on this information to others you think may benefit from this network.

## Quotes from our LA Visitors:

"The lovely 'safe' space created in these lessons was heartening to see, it shows the care and dedication of your staff and the acceptance and respect of your students".

"It was so nice to see and hear how positive and committed you all are to the students in your school ... of the lovely safe place for your students to learn and interact".



### Dates for your Diary:

- 29/09/22 KS4 trip to the Science Museum
- 03/10/22 Marwell Zoo trip for KS4
- 02/11/22 KS4 English Lit trip to see An Inspector Calls in Southampton
- 08/12/22 Parents' Evening

## Safeguarding News:

As parents, we need to be aware of the dangers our children may face and their increased vulnerabilities to criminal exploitation. If you think you need any guidance or assistance to prevent this risk, please click on the link below:

[SPACE | Parents & SPACE Steps | Guidance & assistance for parents | CCE & Countylines - bespaceaware](https://www.bespaceaware.org/)

### Online Safety:

The school has just appointed Mrs Habgood to take over from Mrs Chadwick as our Online Safety Champion.

Dorset Police have produced a really useful video on this topic:

<https://www.dorset.police.uk/support-and-guidance/safety-in-your-community/ssct/ssct-resources/>

We also need to remind you and our students of the dangers of the content of materials they access on the internet. All students should understand and recognise, that it is illegal for anyone to access propaganda and/or sites about weapons, even in your own home. If found accessing this type of material, it can be classed as an 'act of terrorism'. There has been an increase in the number of prosecutions within the local area, due to the accessing of this type of material.

## Post-16 Opportunities:

It's never too early to start thinking about Post-16 Options and Preparation for Adulthood Outcomes. Whilst we don't want to lose any of our students and can offer Post-16 provision, it would still be worth visiting the local providers and looking at their prospectuses with your son / daughter. If you wish to see when other school's sixth forms are offering open days, please contact Caroline Chadwick.

**Lots of colleges and sixth forms are offering Open Days soon.**

**Here are details and links to some:**

Bournemouth & Poole College  
Thursday 22 September 2022 4 – 8 pm  
[www.thecollege.co.uk](http://www.thecollege.co.uk) – choose Explore the College - Experience the College

Brockenhurst College  
Wednesday 28 September 2022 / Saturday 15 October 2022 / Sunday 5 November 2022  
[www.brock.ac.uk](http://www.brock.ac.uk) - choose Events

Kingston Maurward College  
Sunday 25 September 2022 / Each weekend until May 2023  
<https://www.kmc.ac.uk/college/open-events/>



## Mental Health:

With the recent passing of the Queen, some of us may be experiencing a sense of loss and grief and anxiety around 'change'.

We have sourced some advice on how to have difficult conversations with children and how to respond to mental health issues on NSPCC Learning. Further support is available through Childline.

**Read the news story:** [NSPCC mourns death of Queen Elizabeth II](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/news/news-stories/queen-elizabeth-ii/)  
**Visit Childline:** [Childline](https://www.childline.gov.uk/)

**See also on NSPCC Learning**

- > [How to have difficult conversations with children](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning/parenting/parenting-articles/how-to-have-difficult-conversations-with-children/)
- > [Child mental health](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/learning/parenting/parenting-articles/child-mental-health/)