

October Newsletter

Dear Parent/carer

Covid

Firstly may I thank all Beacon parents for your support this half-term. All students at Beacon have followed a normal timetable this half-term, accessing their normal specialist classrooms and subject teachers, including PE. As a school we have rigorously applied some practical changes which are outlined below;

- A strict one-way movement.
- Hand sanitiser on entry to all lessons and the school building, including the dining halls.
- A 15 minute, split breaktime in addition to split lunchtime.
- Year group bubbles have their own dining hall with cleaning in between sittings.
- Virtual assemblies.
- Three day-time cleaners.
- Staff wear masks on corridors and during duty at break and lunchtimes.

The students have been fantastic in their application to these changes and everyone at the academy appreciates the contribution of our parents. At the time of writing; (*Sunday morning on the 18 October*) there have been no confirmed cases and Beacon has been open to all students this half-term. Attendance at Beacon has been above the national average for all schools.

In the event of a 'burst bubble' where a class or year group will be required to isolate. Please note that all students have been taught in their ICT lessons how to access Google Classroom. The teaching staff, many of whom taught lessons online during lockdown, are also able to deliver lessons via Google Classroom.

Summer 2020 GCSE Results

I am delighted to report that this summer, Beacon enjoyed our best ever set of GCSE results. The academy achieved a strong, positive 'Progress 8' score of +0.24. This means that, on average, each Beacon student achieved GCSEs above their target grades generated by their Ks2 SATs results. I was also pleased that both English (+0.01) and Maths (+0.12) achieved positive progress scores, validating the very positive feedback from OFSTED following their 'Deep Dives' into these subjects. In our 'Open' pot, the GCSE option subjects combined achieved a progress score of +0.88. I expect this will place Beacon as one of the best performing schools in the UK in the GCSE option subjects.

Our overall Progress 8 score of +0.24 places Beacon in the top 27% of schools in the UK*. I

am also pleased that Beacon students achieved the top GCSE grade 9 in a range of subjects including: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Further Maths and Science.

Site Update

The £350,000 refurbishment of our Science Tower is now complete with students and staff now moving back into the tower. In addition the tower has a brand new roof, electrics, central heating pipes, gas and water supply and is effectively a brand new build within our academy. The block provides a fantastic learning environment and I am sure parents who have seen the photographs on our newly created Facebook and our twitter account will agree.

The £72,000 project installing cladding on our Arts Tower was completed in the summer and provides an impressive vista of our academy. During the summer we completed an extensive programme of painting and re-carpeting throughout the academy, this will be extended to the Arts tower during October half-term. We are also completing internal road re-surfacing during October. I would like to thank the Wellspring Academy Trust for their huge support.

We will continue our work with our trust to ensure that all Beacon students continue to benefit from outstanding educational facilities and environments within a traditional school building.

Music Mark

Beacon Academy has been awarded the prestigious 'Music Mark' for our contribution to developing whole school music (including during lock-down). My understanding is that Beacon Academy is the only secondary academy in North East Lincolnshire to be awarded the 'Music Mark'. If your child is interested in private music lessons please contact Mrs Fordham at the academy. Music is a growing GCSE option subject and our teacher Mr Quickfall has enjoyed recent chart success in Australia!

Sports Mark

In addition to our 'Music Mark', I can also report to parents that Beacon Academy has been awarded the 'Gold' Sports Mark for our contribution to extra-curricular sports and for the wide range of sports which are offered at the academy. This half-term, the sports department have been running inter-house sports competitions during tutor group for all students.

Extra-Curricular clubs

Whilst extra-curricular clubs in all schools are on hold due to Covid. Homework club is opening to all Y10 students on Wednesday after-school between 2:50pm until 4pm. I am exploring ways of extending homework club in a safe, Covid compliant, way to Years 7-9.

Year 11 - Period 6

The year 11 students have an extra 1 hour lesson (period 6) between Tuesdays - Thursday every week. This gives the students an extra hour of English, maths and science. This means they finish school at 3:50pm on these days. I am looking at this model for year 11 moving forward and I will consult with parents in the lower year groups. As always I am very interested in parent's views.

Term Dates 2020/2021

Date	Event
Friday 23 October	Academy closes for half-term
Monday 2 November	Academy re-opens after half-term
Monday 2 November – Thursday 12 November	Year 11 Mock examinations
Friday 18 December	Academy closes for Christmas break
Monday 4 January 2021	Academy re-opens for spring term
Thursday 11 February	Academy closes for half-term
Friday 12 February	Teacher training day
Monday 22 February	Academy re-opens after half-term
Thursday 1 April	Academy closes for Easter
Monday 19 April	Academy re-opens after Easter
Monday 3 May	Bank holiday
Friday 28 May	Academy closes for half-term
Monday 7 June	Academy re-opens after half-term
Friday 16 July	Academy closes for the summer break

Headteacher's 'Drop-In'

I hope you have received this newsletter via email. If we do not have your up-to-date email please contact the academy so we can update our records. We will of course send via post upon request or for parents experiencing difficulties with their emails.

Headteacher's drop-in is available every Thursday between 3:15 to 5pm. In this Covid era please can parents contact the academy in advance and where at all possible, a virtual or telephone meeting will be preferred.

Facebook

The academy has created a new Facebook page. Please type in Beacon Academy and look for our logo, please try not to confuse us with a Beacon Academy in Crowborough, East Sussex. We will share parental information and updates about the academy on this Facebook page.

Twitter

We also share news and information on our existing twitter page @beaconacademyCL. Please note the following subjects also have twitter pages for subject specific news:

Art & Photography: @BeaconArt1

Citizenship: @BA_Citizenship

English: @english_beacon

Engineering: @BeaconAcademyE1

Humanities: @BeaconHums

ICT: @BeaconAcadIT

PE/Sports Studies & Science: @BeaconAcadPE

Science; @beacon_science


SEN: @BeaconHarbour

Year 7 Project: @BeaconAcademyPr

Thank you for your on-going support of Beacon Academy. If you would like to contact us, please call 01472 328888 or via e-mail on: office@beaconacademy.co.uk

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe October half-term.

Yours sincerely



lighten, Inspire, Innovate

Jason Thurley
Headteacher

*according to October 2020 analysis by Fischer Family Trust (FFT).