



# Larwood Academy Trust

**Executive Headteacher: Mr Sean Trimble B.Ed (hons) MA NPQH**

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## Larwood School

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Pierre Van Der Merwe – BA, NPQH

## Brandles School

Headteacher: Mr David Pearce – BA (hons), PGCE, NPQH



7 May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I take great pleasure in writing to you to share the really positive start the boys have made to this term. Our attendance is higher than it has ever been, positive behaviour points are increasing week on week and there has been a dramatic drop in negative behaviours. We recognise that this is the result of a huge team effort in which parents play a very major part - thank you!

A Student Council meeting was held this week and the boys have made some very sensible suggestions on how we can change things for the better. We have a Senior Leadership Team meeting on Monday to put an action plan together. There will be some quick wins and some projects that will take a little longer, but it is important that the students recognise that they have a voice, they are listened to and that their suggestions are taken seriously.

One of the areas the students have asked us to consider is the school uniform. They have stated that they are proud of the school and want the uniform to reflect this. Students and staff understand that the purchasing of uniform has been difficult during lockdown, but now that this has been lifted, we need to revert to our usual high standards. If your son has grown out of his shirt, trousers, or shoes, please could you ensure they are replaced promptly so that they are not made to feel different by being inappropriately dressed. If there are any issues through hardship, please contact the pastoral office and we will always do what we can to help.

Some boys have sensitivity issues, and these are addressed in their Education Support Plans. These are the only students who have dispensation to wear slightly different clothing than the uniform listed below. Even with these cases the colours still need to be black bottoms and white tops to blend in.

### **School Uniform**

White school shirt

Black v- necked jumper (optional)

Black blazer (optional)

Plain black shoes or trainers

Black or dark grey school trousers

**PE kit:**

Plain coloured shorts

Plain T shirt

Football socks and trainers to be kept in school.

We are running a new rewards initiative where boys have the opportunity to play football on a Friday when they achieve well during the week. This has been extremely successful over the last fortnight and we anticipate more and more boys becoming involved as the term progresses.

As there are no formal examinations again this year for our Year 11s, staff and boys are working hard to complete coursework and provide supporting evidence for their Centre Assessed Grades.

Many have been asking when their last day of lessons will be. In short, every boy will finish at a different time as it will be dependent on them finishing their work.

Every student will be provided with a sign-off sheet and when their coursework is completed and they have submitted their portfolios of work, they will be signed off and will no longer need to attend. The earliest boys will finish will be the last day of this half-term, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021; no boys will be allowed to leave school before this time. We would expect all boys to be finished within the first two weeks after half-term, but this will be determined by the speed that students complete their coursework.

In the next couple of weeks, we are welcoming some new residents to Brandles School. Some hens' eggs are arriving which will be nurtured by the boys in Science and when they hatch will make their new home in the quad.

Our new music room has been delivered and should be erected over the next few weeks. We have also received encouraging reports that our two new classrooms being built next to the gym will be in place for September.

Finally, I would like to remind you again that our Prizes and Awards day will be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Please keep the morning free as invites will be sent out nearer the time.

Yours sincerely



David Pearce  
Headteacher