



Shropshire
Gateway
Educational Trust

Lacon Childe School

...more than just a school

Headteacher: Darren Reynolds, B.Ed., NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. R Croxton-Broome, B.A.(Ed)



Dear Parents/Carers,

21st September 2018

I would like to thank you all for sending your children back to school looking amazing, dressed in correct school uniform and with everything they need to take a full and active part in all lessons. The atmosphere around school is one of bubbling enthusiasm and excitement.

As you will know, there have been one or two changes at school, with staff taking different responsibilities and roles, especially in our pastoral system where we have 3 new Year Leaders. They are all enjoying this new challenge and are getting to know the students in their particular year group. We have also welcomed two new members of staff: Miss Mountford in Science and Miss Matuszewska in PE. Both have made an immediate and positive impact on our children.

For our Key Stage 3 students, we have just completed a week of assessments, including CATs testing for Year 7 and reading comprehension, spelling and maths tests for all of the Key Stage. The CAT tests provide us with valuable information about your children's cognitive/thinking abilities and helps greatly with making accurate predictions and target setting. The other smaller tests are carried out yearly and provide us with information about the progress your children are making in these key areas. They are not part of a grand scheme to test and then test some more. We are not, have never been and will never be merely an exam factory. Our motto of being '..... more than just a school' is more evident now than ever. We value and promote the education and development of the whole child through a wide range of experiences and know that this is just one of the many reasons parents/carers choose Lacon Childe as the school of choice for their children.

Sports and gardening clubs, STEM, music and drama enrichment has started after school and are being very well supported. The L@After transport that takes children home following the after school programme is running Monday to Thursday and is being very well used.

We have our annual Year 7 Castles Trip coming up on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th October, as well as other exciting activities/trips for your children to take part in. Further to this, and following requests from parents/carers, I will be sending out a costs list for all year groups explaining some of the payments associated with being at school. This will include trips, experiences and resources required as your children move through the year.

I am always in admiration of the ability and expertise of our teaching staff. They are one of the most informed and hard working groups of teachers I have had the pleasure to work alongside. However, to keep them at the top of their game, I have to provide them with further opportunities to develop and further master their skills. We are planning to run three Collaborative Planning Days:

- Tuesday 9th October 2018
- Monday 28th January 2019
- Tuesday 2nd July 2019

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On these days we will run a slightly modified timetable. Lessons will be 50 minutes long and break and lunch shortened by a few minutes to allow us to close at 1.30pm. Children will leave school and the staff will have an opportunity to spend a long period of quality time, developing, planning and improving their expertise for a 3-hour period. This is being done to reflect the professional nature of our role and to improve the quality of education provided at Lacon Childe. This is an approach that is widely used in education and by some major companies across the country.

The next meeting of our amazing PTA is on the 23rd October at 5.30pm in our Library Learning Centre. At this meeting, staff will present their 'Wish List' bids - things they would like funding to support from the PTA. It would be fantastic to see some new faces at the group so please try to join us in school.

This Monday (24th September) we have our Open Evening from 6pm – 8pm and welcome any parent/carer to have a look around our school and meet staff and students. School will also be open to parents/carers the following day from 9am – 11am.

We have a Year 10 Introduction to GCSE Evening on Tuesday 2nd October when we will outline some of the key characteristics of Key Stage 4 study requirements and look at ways in which we can help you, help your children to succeed. Please try to attend if your children have just started their GCSE courses in Year 10.

Following this, on the 11th October, we are hosting the annual Post 16 Careers/Colleges Evening, providing information and guidance about the pathways available after Lacon Childe. If your child is in Year 9, 10 or 11, it would be an extremely important event to attend.

Finally, I sincerely hope that your children, especially our new Year 7s, feel happy and safe at our school. For all of us responsible for their care, guidance and education, it is the single most important factor. I hope that we can provide many opportunities for parents, carers and staff to meet together with the common aim of providing the best all-round education we can for our children.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darren Reynolds'.

Darren Reynolds,
Headteacher.