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Dear Parents/Carers

As I write we are already two-thirds of the way through the school year and for every year group there has been – and continues to be – both a fantastic focus on learning and a wonderful range of other activities and opportunities to enrich school life. Earlier this term, we published the spring edition of Levenshulme Life, and I hope that you have had a chance to look through that and get a flavour of all that has been going on – if not, you can still access an electronic copy via the school website. If you use Twitter, it would be great to see you follow the school @Levenshulmehigh. This is a super way of keeping up to date with what is happening at school and share in the many opportunities our students enjoy.

Although spring does, now, seem to be emerging we have had some very wintry weather during this half term. Thank you for your support in still sending your daughters to school as we stayed open throughout the snow and gales, even though a number of other schools closed. We are very lucky that most of our staff live quite close to school and so still manage to get here, and the site team do a fantastic job of making the grounds safe for us all when it is snowy and icy. As you know, we value attendance very highly so that our students can make the most of every day in their learning and so we make every effort possible not to shut the school.

We have had some important 'firsts' in our sporting life during this half term. Two Key Stage 3 teams competed in the New Age Kurling competition in January and they finished with Silver and Bronze medals. Our Key Stage 3 badminton team played in the regional finals after winning the first two rounds – they represented Manchester in the School Games for the very first time. The Year 9/10 football team beat Trinity High School in the semi-finals of their cup competition and have made it to the final for the first time. The Key Stage 3 football team have finished second in their league and will play in the finals later in the year. The Key Stage 4 goalball team won gold medals at the Manchester Inclusion Competition and will go on to represent the city at the regional games in the summer term. We are immensely proud of everyone who took part in all of these – and other – sporting events, whether as team members, coaches or supporters, and I am sure that this is just the start of a blossoming sporting future for Levenshulme.

Last week was national Careers Week, and we enjoyed a wonderful time celebrating and further raising the profile of careers education, information, advice and guidance. Both our staff and students have been learning about different career pathways, including apprenticeships, through a range of inspiring speakers and guests. Further information about modern apprenticeships can be found via the careers section of our website; if you have not yet taken a look, please take time to do so. There is an ever-expanding range of different opportunities across a wide array of types of role. Year 10 students completed their work experience week in March, which was hugely successful and brought some amazing, positive feedback from employers. The girls should be very proud of themselves for how they coped in the workplace.

This half term has also included the celebration of International Women's Day. As part of this, we were very fortunate to have been joined by around 100 women from different groups across our local and city communities on Wednesday 14th March to celebrate the work of inspirational women. We heard some wonderful stories of women who have been pioneers in their ventures to do good in their communities and support other women of all ages.

This rich event was an annual celebration run by the Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Network, open to women of all heritages, held in the style of a tea party. A fortunate group of students were also invited and so were able to enjoy food from around the world as well as meet some of the great women who live and work in Manchester. As our relationship grows with a range of community groups we hope that we can increasingly support and work with them – which will be of benefit to the community around us as well as providing new experiences and opportunities for our students, for example through volunteering or mentoring.

There are now just six weeks (including the Easter break) left until the beginning of the GCSE examinations for our Year 11 students. You can help your daughter to revise by ensuring that she has a quiet space in which to study; she is eating healthily and drinking lots of water and not spending too much time on social media. A good night's sleep and regular exercise are also ways of making sure she is in the best possible physical and mental state to be able to prepare for her examinations. You can find further information on how to support your daughter with her academic studies on the parents section of our website.

We have recently been sent some information from Manchester City Council, regarding the Universal Credit digital service which we have been asked to share with Parents/Carers. Universal Credit is a Department for Work and Pensions benefit delivered by JobCentre Plus. It's a single monthly payment to help with your living costs which you may be able to claim if you're on a low income or out of work. Universal Credit can only be claimed online. Further information to help and support claimants can be found on our website at www.levenshulmehigh.co.uk/parents/credit. In addition, further information and support can be found by visiting www.gov.uk/universalcredit or by calling the Universal Credit helpline on 0800 328 9344.

The current school term ends on Thursday 29th March, which is our annual multicultural day event. The students have been building up to this special day through form time activities – with the theme this year of 'Born here or Drawn here'. This theme has given lots of scope to explore reasons why Manchester is a fantastic place to live and work as well as for people to share their stories. School is **closed on Friday 30th March** and for the following two weeks – we **reopen** at the normal time on **Monday 16th April**. Please ensure that your daughter arrives promptly by 8.25am and that her uniform matches our expectations. We would ask for your support in reminding your daughter to come to school in the correct footwear. School trousers should be tailored and made of the right material, jeans and leggings are not permitted.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you to consider everyone's safety when dropping off or collecting students around the school gates as it gets very busy. Careful and courteous driving is very important to protect your daughters and show respect for local residents and the environment. This is a good time of year, with lighter mornings and evenings, to encourage students to walk more – so if you drop off or pick up your daughter why not take this opportunity to do so further away from the school gates?

Thanks for your support throughout this term, including the charity fundraising that is such an important aspect of our school life. Each House has an adopted charity, chosen by the students, as the focus for their fundraising and inter-house competition is flourishing.

Please accept the good wishes of the staff and governors for a restful break and a happy and healthy summer term.

Yours faithfully



Dr Johan MacKinnon, PhD
Academy Headteacher



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