

Dear Year 6 Student,

I am writing to you at this very challenging time. It's very strange how despite having all this time off school, I am missing it because of the lockdown!

You're probably wondering what life will be like at ELA. I had a lot of questions buzzing around in my head too. My first question to myself was "Am I going to get lost?" The answer is yes ... probably...I did!! Please don't worry though as there are so many helpful students that can guide you in the right direction. The questions that you have are all very normal. The staff at the school are really kind and understanding especially when you first start.

It is quite a daunting experience (but it's a great experience). The canteen is very different as you can choose a lot of different foods which is very different to primary school- you even pay with your fingerprint! The lessons are 50 minutes long and you do different subjects in different classes around the school. My favorite lesson is Science- we use Bunsen burners and carry out cool experiments! Art is fun too because you use lots of different materials and learn about some interesting artists!

If you are interested in extracurricular activities, the academy has quite a lot to offer such as football, netball and rugby.

Just a heads up...we get quite a bit of homework (but its beneficial!) its accessed through the internet program called insight where you need to log in to access it...this is where you can check how many merits you have got which are like house points.

Another good thing is that you have a tutor. They are there to support you if you need it and they are the first teacher to see every morning.

When I first started I already had a bit of a friendship group which was really nice but as I have been at the academy, my friendship group has grown and changed as I am sure it will happen with you- it's natural for it to shift and change.

During my time at East Leake Academy, I have felt more confident to raise my hand to answer questions and I've even become confident enough to stand up in front of my classmates in drama to show my piece.

This is just a little insight into my experience so far, I hope you have a great time starting at the academy. Please don't panic, if you are having a bit of a wobble there are plenty of nice, supportive people to help and guide you. My last piece of advice would be to enjoy it! 😊

I hope you manage to experience your transition and Lockdown isn't going to last forever.

Keep smiling and stay positive

Can't wait to see you all!

James Howard 🙋