

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**RE: A positive start to the new term!**

I am writing to congratulate students, parents and academy staff for such a positive start to the new term.

There is a real pride in student appearance, the overwhelming majority of uniform is being worn correctly and where items are missing, families have shared when orders are due to arrive and issues can be resolved.

Students have responded very well to operating in 'bubbles'. The operational plan is being followed and early indications are that students value their own dedicated bases and social areas. Our focus in tutor time has been to re-establish 'routine' – something that all of us have missed greatly and recognise is the foundation of positive learning.

I have been pleasantly surprised at how quickly all students have settled into our new way of working. In particular, the attitude towards learning is superb – students have displayed great maturity and desire to learn this last week. Classrooms are buzzing with activity and you can really sense the 'value' of education that is felt by all – not surprising having endured nearly 6 months away from school.

With the new 'rule of 6' restrictions coming in to force today, we have reviewed our risk assessment and are introducing further distancing measures to minimise the risk of infection transmission.

From today, all staff briefings and meetings will be held virtually, reducing face-to-face contact between staff. Similarly, all events, parents' evenings and open-evenings will also not take place as planned and instead become virtual events. Details for the forthcoming Year 11 and Year 7 information evenings will be published shortly.

We will continue to review and amend our operational plan and risk assessment and although still early days, I am confident that if things continue as we have seen this last week, we are in for another successful year.

Despite the ongoing challenges we may face locally and nationally during this pandemic, your commitment in helping students return to a 'normal' form of education is clearly evident by the calm and purposeful start to the term we have enjoyed. Thank you.

We will continue to do all that we can to help our students learn, grow and achieve. As parents, I know that you are doing the same and your continued support is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas  
Principal

**Oak Academy**

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT  
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