

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**RE: Christmas Wishes & Start of Term Arrangements**

It's finally here! After 14 weeks and 68 teaching days, the last day of the autumn term has arrived.

With rewards assemblies being delivered across all year groups throughout the day, it's right and proper that we recognise and celebrate the amazing achievements of Oak students and I am looking forward to applauding the hard work and energy that students have given throughout this busy term.

Although this newsletter may be less colourful and image-rich as we've come to expect, this does reflect our shift towards the use of social media platforms to give more immediate feedback and recognition of daily life at Oak Academy. If you're not already familiar with these, do consider taking a look:

[https://twitter.com/Oak\\_Academy](https://twitter.com/Oak_Academy)

<https://www.facebook.com/OakAcademyAAT>

Going into the Christmas break, we will conclude our current operational plan and are looking forward to moving back to the more established practice of teachers 'owning' their classroom space and students moving (albeit under controlled measures and a one-way system) around the site. Don't forget that full details of the new operational plan and risk assessment can be found on our website:

<https://www.oak-academy.co.uk/coronavirus/updates-from-the-academy/>

Today we are also saying goodbye to Mr Navalon, Teacher of Spanish, who leaves us to take up a similar position in another local school. I'm really grateful to him for his dedication to Spanish, PE and the Inclusion Team as a tutor to Year 7 Griffin. We wish him all the best and every success in his new ventures.

Whatever happens over the next two weeks, we all know that Christmas will be different.

Life at the moment is a balance of our desire to see friends and family against the need to keep loved ones in our own homes safe, by social distancing.

My Christmas message this year is to be selfish – we have worked so hard as a community to manage the risk of infection transmission and should consider the restrictions in place as our excuse to shut the front door and switch off to spend time with our immediate families over the holiday. That's what I am looking forward to.

It's a break we all deserve, and I know something that will help us feel refreshed and ready for the New Year.

*Breaking news this afternoon suggests that year groups will be returning after Christmas on a staggered start – there is no official confirmation at this time but I will of course share details once plans have been changed accordingly!*

Whatever your plans for the Christmas holiday, on behalf of all the staff here at Oak I wish you and your family peace, happiness and a (restful!) time together.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Burgas  
Principal

**Oak Academy**

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT  
Paul Holman, BSc (Hons), Director of Outcomes  
Richard Burgas, BA(Hons), Principal

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