

Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: End of Term Update Letter

We made it! It's wonderful to recognise that during the last 6 weeks we've pulled together as a community to keep education and well-being at the heart of what we do.

Remote learning, onsite provision, live lessons, independent study, onsite lateral flow testing, welfare calls, home visits, parents' evenings, "Time to Talk" day, Friday shout outs.... we really are doing all we can **together** to maintain a sense of 'normal' and daily routine for the children that we serve.

Thank you all so much for everything you have done, it is making a positive difference.

That's why we're pleased to share with parents/carers a progress report that highlights student effort over the first 5 weeks of this term. We know this will help drive discussion at home and hope you find this report useful in helping your child continue to make good progress with their studies. Do remember that we're here to support if needed – contact your child's tutor or the subject teacher if you have any questions.

From next term, we will be issuing this progress report on a weekly basis, with follow up contact where we believe barriers to learning may exist through poor effort or apparent non-engagement. This is done with the best intentions because it's important children do not fall behind – it's not their fault that schools remain closed and as adults, we are all doing what we can to ensure learning continues with as little disruption as possible.

Our weekly welfare calls have continued to be a strength, with 100% contact the ongoing standard. This far exceeds what we hear takes place in other schools, and I feel speaks volumes about the strong relationships we have built together.

As such, we feel that we can adapt our monitoring to reduce the number of calls required, meaning that from half term we won't be continuing with weekly calls for everyone. We hope this takes the pressure off at home a little too!

Instead we intend to formally register ALL STUDENTS during the morning tutor time and recognise that those attending each day are safe and well. This will replace the need to complete a welfare call.

Where students do not attend, absence should be reported in the usual way if they are unwell. If there is no reason for the absence from tutor time, then a call would be made to confirm the absence – much the same as we do under normal circumstances.

Attendance to live lessons is also recorded. This information, plus the effort students make in completing assignments, enables us to decide about any contact we need to make regarding the quality of learning. The progress reports are also a good indicator in this regard too.

The graphic below shows how we will monitor attendance and contact families from Monday 22.02.21:

Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT

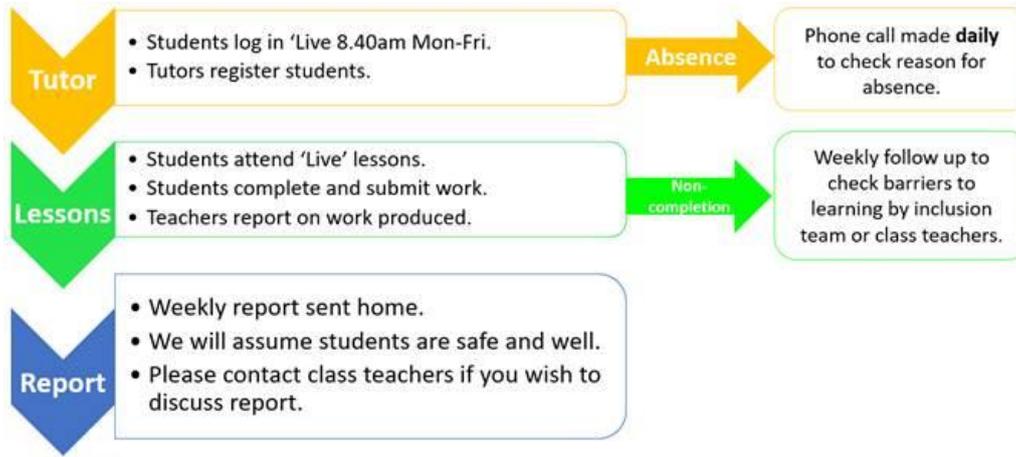
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Do please contact your child's tutor should you have any questions about this and I hope you agree that now is the time for us to switch our collective focus onto the quality of work being completed – given the strong contact regarding welfare we already have in place.

Student Achievements – w/c 08.02.21

It makes me very happy to bring this letter to a close by sharing our latest round of survey responses.

As ever, it's amazing to see that your achievements are evenly balanced between academic study and personal development. Thank you so much for sharing what makes you smile each week – you have no idea how much this makes us smile too. We can't wait until you're all back at Oak!

Highlights for us this week are:

Completing a 3-mile walk with my dad

The things I am most proud of this week is making and decorating cakes with my sisters and with the way my artwork turned out.

Using my new revision cards to make notes about science and then getting 26 out of 30 in the test, very happy

Really enjoyed maths this week when the teacher put us into groups on live to work in teams. Loved playing kahoot as well

Not schoolwork related, but after months of not really knowing what I want to do after yr11, I have now made up my mind to go to college and am looking forward to my interview soon 🙌🙌🙌

The link to this week's survey is here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qZHA4UUN_0aI340mL1jsAODtsSNOCdtEqySqRovO37IUN0RHVUEXMTQ3VFM5Tk8xWUJSTTkzWjVVMC4u

Please do complete this short survey – the last one of T3!

Although our plans may be limited, wishing you all the very best for a peaceful and safe half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Burgas
Principal