

Dear Parents and Carers

## **RE: Principals Update – Term 4, Week 1**

Please let me start by a massive thank you for the support many of you have shown me this week. Staff, students and you as parent/carers have ensured my transition to acting Principal has been a smooth one. The week has gone by in a heartbeat and with all that is going on in the world right now I feel absolutely blessed that I have the honour of leading Oak at this time.

I have worked for the Academy now since September 2013, when I started as a teacher of science. During my time at Oak, I have worked closely with lots of you in my roles as Head of Science, Assistant Vice Principal of Standards and most recently as Vice Principal. During the COVID 19 pandemic I have got to know many of you as I set up our Remote Learning and Testing Programmes and I know many of you will have received communication from me regarding curriculum and exams. Oak Academy has a very special place in my heart, and I am absolutely driven to continue to support Oak in its journey of improvement.

As part of assemblies this week I spoke a lot to students about Oak's core values of 'Excellence, Courage, Kindness Community'. We recognised that when we are doing things that we are passionate about that it can be easy to demonstrate these, and we talked about many examples of Oak students demonstrating all of these. As mentioned in the communication from Mr Webb, a large focus for this half term however is going to be on 'Respect'. Unfortunately, there were too many instances before the half term break where a small minority of students showed a lack of respect to people, property and learning. I thank you as parents for your support of us as we try to restore this at Oak so that our focus can remain on the things that really matter. This begun this week with students carrying out community service in instances where unnecessary damage had been done to school property.

In the remainder of the letter, I would like to share some Academy updates. You can expect to receive a short letter from me weekly to ensure you feel up to date with all Academy success and events that are upcoming.

### **New Staff Welcome**

This week we welcomed Miss Francesca Ceo to Oak. Miss Ceo joins us as our new Alternative Provision Manager. She will be working both with students who attend our AP in the afternoons and with students who need additional support in managing different elements of their behaviours and wellbeing. I know you will all make her feel welcome. Miss Ceo had an extremely positive first week and I am excited to now watch our Alternative Provision grow.

### **Year 11**

A massive well done to those Year 11's who attended our half term revision day for English, Maths and Science. I hope they all took a lot from this. The day was run by a revision company and topic covered related directly to the topics exam boards have released for this summer's exams.

Students now have just one week left of their final PPE's, ahead of the exams this summer. On the whole students have been fantastic and showed real commitment. Staff are currently working on final plans to ensure students are prepared for the exams, especially now we have received the final advanced information as shared before half term.

### **Year 10**

8 of our Year 10 girls have the opportunity to spend the day at Aston Villa this Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March as part of their AFCB Aspires Programme to celebrate 'National Women in Sports Week'.

### **Year 9**

Many thanks for all Year 9 students who have submitted their options forms. We have now collated this information and this week we will begin to meet with students to go through and check they are happy with their choices. We will begin meeting with students who are yet to complete their forms and with those who have requested follow up. **All Year 9 students** will however be seen over the next few weeks.

#### **Oak Academy**

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

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With myself acting as Principal, Mr Wacker will now lead on the remainder of the options process although I will continue to work closely with him.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March some Year 9 students will be attending a Science event. Letters have already been issued to relevant students about this day.

Year 9 parents evening will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March between 3.30 and 6.30pm. This will be our **first onsite parents evening since before COVID**. We are excited to invite parents back. Appointments should still be booked online using the following link [SchoolCloud - Oak Academy](#).

### Year 7

Year 7 parents evening will also take place on site on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March between 3.30 and 6.30pm. A message will be sent when the evening is open for booking.

### Year 6

All Year 6 parents whose child have been offered a place at Oak will be sent their welcome letters tomorrow.

### Extra-Curricular

Our extracurricular offer continues to go from strength to strength and I am pleased to be able to share our T4 programme at the following link. [Extra-Curricular-Programme-T4.pdf \(oak-academy.co.uk\)](#)

Our Year 8 and 9 boys football teams played a training match against each other this week and are excited for their next fixtures. Our new kit has arrived, and I know students feel very proud to be wearing it. We will keep you up to date with upcoming fixtures so you are able to come and watch and cheer our students on.

As I write this letter, I am also proud to say a group of our students are braving the cold as part of their Ten Tors training exercise on Dartmoor. They have completed 24km today and spend tonight in tents ahead of a further 20km walk tomorrow. Mr Turner and the rest of the staff are extremely proud of the determination they are showing in what have been some difficult conditions.



### KS3 Home learning

A reminder that KS3 students should all have a knowledge organiser and should be completing work daily on this. Knowledge organisers can be found on our website at the following link along with the Home Learning grids that inform you of the work they should be doing each week. [Term 4 - Oak Academy \(oak-academy.co.uk\)](#). Exciting information will follow next week as we launch our new Maths homework platform 'Sparxs'.



### Rewards

Over coming weeks we are excited to launch a number of new reward. This started this week with the launch of our Summer Thorpe Park Trip. Watch this space for more updates next week as we continue to reward all the good Oak students are doing.

Thank you again for your continued support. Do not hesitate to contact any member of the Academy Team using email addresses at the following link [Academy Staff - Oak Academy \(oak-academy.co.uk\)](#) or contact me directly at [Hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk](mailto:Hayley.richley@oak-academy.co.uk) .

Yours Sincerely,



Hayley Richley  
**Interim Principal**

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Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT  
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