

18 December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we arrive at the end of the year, I must firstly thank everyone associated with the school for their support over the last 12 months. Our staff have shown immense resilience and commitment as ever. Students have shown strength as they continue their learning with restrictions on how the school operates and how they live their lives out of school. As parents, we have faced new challenges and found new ways to support our children to be as successful as possible.

The Government made another unexpected announcement yesterday evening stating that Year 11 will return at the start of term with Years 7-10 returning the following week and learning virtually between Tuesday 5th and Friday 8th January. Therefore we look forward to welcoming Year 11 back on Tuesday 5th January and Years 7-10 on Monday 11th January. Mr Beere, Assistant Headteacher will write a separate letter to remind us all about our virtual learning.

Key worker and vulnerable children will also be able to attend during the first week back as they did during the lockdown. Please email enquiries@oakmoor.hants.sch.uk, by Monday 4th January if you would like your child to attend.

Also in the announcement was a statement that secondary schools will begin testing students for COVID-19. I am sure you will have many questions regarding this. However, at this point schools have only received the information you will have seen in the media. There is limited information from the Government on how this should be managed so we will be working this out during the holiday and I expect to be able to share some detail with you during the first week of January. So, please bear with us as we work this out!

We will return with the same infection control measures along with our adapted timetable and breaktimes to continue to keep our community as safe as possible. Every student must continue to arrive in school with a face covering every day.

We will hold virtual Parents Evenings next term and have invested in new software to make this as straightforward as possible. Mrs Moral, Deputy Headteacher, will write to you next term with details of how this will work.

We will also host a virtual Preferences Evening for Year 8 as they begin to consider their choices for Key Stage 4 courses which begin in Year 9. Mr Beere has already begun working with our Subject Heads to make this happen and will write to you next term as well with details.

I am pleased to congratulate Mr Oliver on his appointment as Head of PE from January, taking over from Mr Beere. Mr Beere has been an excellent Head of PE for over 15 years and has continued this role alongside his Assistant Headteacher responsibilities for the last couple of years. Mr Beere will continue as Assistant Headteacher responsible for the Curriculum and Stakeholders.

We will be joined by an additional Assistant Headteacher in January who will lead on Teaching and Learning across the school. Mrs Connolly-Harper joins us mid-January, bringing with her a wealth of experience, as we continue our work to make our great school an exceptional school for our community.

As I repeatedly state, schools are human organisations - only as good as the people within them. We are incredibly fortunate to have wonderful students, working with a talented staff together with our supportive parents. Thank you to every individual who makes Oakmoor School an amazing place to work and learn.

May I wish you all a relaxing holiday.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Hemmings', written in a cursive style.

Mr P Hemmings
Headteacher