

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

28 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope the first week back has gone well for you and your children, and that getting back to remote learning after two weeks off wasn't too testing. Getting back into a routine will have been a blessing for students as young people need structure to maintain good mental health. We have been blessed by the good weather, which does seem to provide relief to the situation we find ourselves in. Thank you for your support and contribution to the national response to the Coronavirus pandemic. These continue to be challenging times. Although the school is shut to the majority of students, you can continue to contact the school through your child's Tutor or the school office.

Planning for the Future

A number of parents who have children in Year 6 have started to enquire about transition arrangements. A letter is due out by the end of the week to all Year 6 families who have a place at Oaklands next academic year. Last week I mentioned that the school had started planning for a return once it was safe to do so. A week further on, we have no further guidance from the Government; it remains our goal to bring students back as quickly as possible. Guidance on social distancing will be key to this. It is likely that Year 12 will present the fewest challenges, when managing social distancing; students are older, classes are small and their timetables punctuated with study periods. I hope their timetable will be as close as possible to the pre-closure version. The remainder of the school presents a significant challenge. Many of our classrooms are particularly small and corridors narrow, managing large numbers of students in this environment has its challenges without the complication of social distancing. This is compounded by the requirement to protect staff and students who require additional shielding.

Assessments for Students in Year 10 and Year 12

We are going to put in place some form of open book or online assessment for Year 10 and Year 12. In brief, subject staff will set a piece of work, or capture engagement with online learning. The dates for these will be (noting that the first of these is scheduled for next week):

- 1st Assessment: 4th-8th May
- 2nd Assessment: 8th-12th June
- 3rd Assessment: 6th-10th July

Full details will be provided in a separate communication before Friday. We ask that parents support the school in ensuring that these tasks are completed and returned.

Tutor Communication

Up to now, Tutors have been emailing tutees once a week. Some students are very good at reading and sending emails. Email is not the default for most teenagers, but it remains the primary communication vehicle for us. This was perhaps predictable. Within Teams there is an instant messaging function. Feedback from staff, students and parents suggest that using this may be more successful. From today we will migrate over to Teams to communicate with tutees in Assignments. This will also enable us to monitor who is viewing the messages which are an important part of us staying connected as a community at this time.

A Few Reminders

Prayer for the day

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/about-us/catholic-life/daily-prayer/>

Information on remote learning

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Office-365-School-Email-andOneDrive.pdf>

Educational Psychologist help for parents

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Educational-Psychology-support-for-parents.pdf>

Please continue to monitor the website for any further information. We will of course communicate separately with various groups of parents on an 'as needed' basis.

We are doing well in following lockdown guidance and would urge you to continue to follow all advice, as the measures begin to take effect. If you are a key worker, you can now get yourself and your family tested if you or your family show any symptoms of the virus. In the event of anyone in your household showing signs of the virus, you should self-isolate, and if you are a keyworker, book tests, following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

Good luck with the week ahead, I will write to you all again next week.

Yours sincerely



Mr Matthew Quinn
Headteacher