

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

31 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I promised to write to parents again a few times over the Summer break; this is not something I would normally do, but in challenging times it is probably a good idea to keep in touch.

I usually spend the first couple of weeks of the school holiday in school. In normal times the difference between the exuberance of the end of term and the first day without students could not be more contrasting. Sadly, not this year.

I have included in this letter links to important information parents may wish to access over the holiday. I will try and keep this as short as possible.

## Catch-Up Funding

Last week schools received a little more information about the catch-up funding. The challenge for all schools is targeting this money over the next twelve months so it has the greatest impact. For secondary schools, the Government has targeted the additional resources at Year 7 - Year 11. Prior to the announcement, we made a decision to increase the number of lessons in Year 13 from September 2020 to support the Sixth Form.

## Uniform

The responsibility for the Uniform Policy for September remains with the Governing Body, this is confirmed in the recent DfE Guidance. At Oaklands, we expect all students to return in September in full and correct uniform, including the correct PE Kit.

Skoolkit have reassured us that whilst it is taking longer for them to process on-line orders, all items of our uniform are currently in stock or expected in August. Please ensure all items purchased comply with our uniform regulations.

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/about-us/uniform/>

For those parents who want to access the nearly-new uniform shop, the Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association have put the appropriate safety measures in place. More information can be found on nearly new uniform, including opening times of the school. Please follow the link below

## [Nearly New Uniform](#)

For any parents that are experiencing genuine financial hardship related to the purchase of uniform, please contact Mrs Oldroyd in confidence on [julie.oldroyd@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:julie.oldroyd@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

## Travel To and From School

With the encouragement from the Government that more of us should walk and cycle where possible, we have added some information to our website regarding travel to school. We have signed up to Route Guard, an App for parents and students to use which helps support with independent travel. There is information on this along with links to other websites which parents may find useful when planning the journey to and from school next term. We are still working with bus companies to finalise arrangements for September.

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/parents/road-safety/>

## Term Dates and Holidays 2020-21

A number of families have started asking about term dates for the school year 2020-21 and the timing of exams. The exam timetable for summer 2021 is the subject of external consultation. Parents with students starting Year 11 or Year 13 this September are advised not to book holidays until we know the outcome of the consultation, as external exams may continue until late July 2021. At this juncture we believe the summer 2021 results will be issued to students around the same time as this year. Please be aware of this uncertainty if you are planning to rebook a holiday.

The term dates can be found on the school website. A number of Inset days are still to be set.

[Term dates](#)

## GCSE and A Level Results this Summer

The lead up to exam results is always an anxious time for students and parents. We have previously written out to families detailing the publishing of results.

A reminder that Year 11 results day is Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August and Year 13 is Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

As the weeks have progressed, further guidance has been published relating to the 2020 exam results. The most recent development has been the confirmation of the arrangements for an autumn exam season should re-sits be necessary. I appreciate that students will be apprehensive about their exam results, which no doubt is compounded by the various news items about the exams that appear as the results days approach.

We will publish a series of Frequently Asked Questions on the school website early next week along with another reminder related to the protocols for the collection of results.

For many of us, me included, this year is a 'staycation'; we had planned to go to Ireland. The national and international news related to the pandemic is less than encouraging so if you have managed to get away please keep safe.

My next letter will be published on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**