

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road  
Waterlooville  
Hampshire  
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



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

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

4 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It does feel at the moment that I am having to put pen to paper on an almost daily basis as uncertainties related to education unravel. I want to take a moment to reinforce to you some of the points made in previous correspondence and discuss a number of other issues.

Whilst writing this letter the Cabinet Office have announced that the Prime Minister is making an announcement later tonight. Please be aware that some of the information detailed in this letter could change by tomorrow morning.

Thank you for all the supportive emails and comments, you have no idea how they bolster us in a time of such uncertainty. We are entirely committed to delivering what is right for the Oaklands community. The delay in opening, which was not unexpected, I truly believe was the right decision for maintaining student, staff and our families' safety and wellbeing. I hope that writing to you over the holiday has paved the way for the next period.

**At the time of writing the rest of this week will be as follows.**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January:** all students in Years 7-13 to be working remotely from home, except the students identified as vulnerable and those of critical key worker families who have requested a place.

## Remote Learning

Many of you will have already had a very positive experience of remote learning during the first lockdown but I am also acutely aware that some of our Year 7 families will be worried at something that may be different from their experience at primary schools. However, your children have all been shown how to access work on Teams and this should be familiar to them as this is the platform they have used to access homework in the autumn term.

**May I take this opportunity to reinforce for all students that this work is not optional.**

In addition, as a pastoral and safeguarding requirement, all students need to sign in with their Tutor on Teams each morning. They will be given guidance by their Heads of Year as to how to do this.

Students need to begin their studies again on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. They will be learning remotely, initially in the first week with a combination of live lessons for Year 11 and Year 13 and other forms of online learning for Years 7-10 and Year 12, including lessons with audio PowerPoints and text support. Heads of Year will send students a message about remote learning expectations. You will be contacted by subject teachers if your child does not engage in the learning and submit work on Teams. Please discuss this with your child and make sure they check Teams and their emails regularly.

### **Masks (New)**

From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January students **must wear a face mask at all times** in class, in corridors, at break and lunch (not just when moving around the site) unless they have a medical exemption reason. We have taken this action due to the infectiousness of the new COVID-19 variant and the fact we are currently in Tier 4. This will initially only affect the small number of students in school in the early days of January. However, it will apply to all students when they return to school. Students who refuse to wear a mask or continually wear it inappropriately will be sanctioned. This protocol will be reviewed in line with the 'R' rate and national tiering. Our COVID addendum to the Behaviour Policy will be amended accordingly.

### **Children of Key Workers and Vulnerable Students**

Students working on-site will follow the same remote learning as their classmates at home and will have access to a computer or laptop if they are unable to bring in their own device from home. They will therefore need to bring their own headphones and any books they require into school each day. Students working on site will need to wear full school uniform. We will expect students in school to continue to observe and follow our COVID-19 behaviour expectations and health & safety requirements in order to keep other students and staff safe. Students on-site in the key worker and vulnerable student provision will sign an 'expectations agreement', a copy of which will be emailed to parents who have signed up for this.

Students will be required to stay within their year group bubbles, they will need to go to their designated year muster areas when they arrive at school in the mornings. Students must remember to bring in their own face masks.

### **Lateral Flow Tests (New)**

The Secretary of State's announcement on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and the associated guidance suggested that we should offer to test all students and staff. This is now being communicated to schools as an expectation. The guidance sets out the timescale for this with testing beginning during the week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January, prioritising vulnerable students, students of key workers and students in examination years.

Thank you very much to those of you who have already volunteered to help with this work. I am so grateful to you for putting yourselves forward. If you would like to volunteer to help out with this essential early morning work, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email [Headteacher@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:Headteacher@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

We will get in touch with you later this week. Full training, medical grade PPE and support will be given to those who can spare the time to help us.

**Please look out for a letter and consent form over the next few days.** Please remember that these tests will identify quickly those that can and cannot be in school, ensuring that we all stay as safe as we can. The test will also be used to allow students to attend school when they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive, rather than isolating at home, ensuring a continuity of education provided they test negative for 7 consecutive days.

### **Free School Meals**

Our Free School Meal families will receive vouchers. These will be issued as soon as possible. The School Canteen will be closed for at least the next two weeks so Parents and Carers are asked to ensure that their children attending school have sufficient food and drink to sustain them during the day.

### **Pastoral Support**

During this period, we would also like to offer pastoral support. Every student will have different needs; however, we want all students to know that they can contact someone in school if they have any worries outside of their lessons. As always, safeguarding is our main priority. **Students can email or Teams message their tutors with any ongoing daily concerns and a pastoral phone call can be arranged.**

They can also contact the Safeguarding and Welfare Team in school led by Mrs Oldroyd using the email [KeepInTouch@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:KeepInTouch@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

If parents need support, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance. There is also a wealth of information for parents in the COVID section of the website [Parent Zone - COVID - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

In lockdown periods and time away from school we know that everyone's mental health can be at risk. Please ensure that your child knows that this support is available, no one should suffer, please reach out where you need to, we are a family that supports each other.

I'll finish by saying that although I think we are in for a difficult couple of months, I hope the new year signals the beginning of an end to this virus. May 2021 be a better year for all of us.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**