

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

5 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the fifth week of term, we have sadly heard of the passing of Captain Sir Thomas Moore. Captain Sir Tom Moore was an inspiration for us all as at the age of 99 he started to walk his garden to raise money for charity. His aim was to raise £1,000. By the time he was 100, he had raised over £30 million and inspired people of all ages from across the globe. His remarkable energy, humour and optimism are a wonderful example to all of us as we reflected this week on how these very qualities can help build resilience.

This week, I have been asking staff for examples where students have demonstrated an outstanding response to lockdown learning. I will be writing home to parents individually next week. This is a mark of the huge commitment of young people at home and in school to the opportunities that they have.

Returning to School

A number of parents have started to ask about the significance of 8th March for the return to school for students. The Government has indicated that this is the earliest schools will open but at this point there is still no clarity regarding whether this is a phased or full return. Speculation in the media over the weekend has caused some confusion. However, I think it is safe to say the Government is prioritising the reopening of schools before any other relaxation of restrictions, such as the reopening of hospitality and allowing family and friends to meet in outdoor settings.

Attending Lessons

Attendance at remote lessons is not optional and we are now monitoring this carefully. I was slightly concerned this week when I heard from a youngster who said, *"I'm not attending lesson as mum said I could go down the skate park"*. I very much hope that was the child's interpretation of what was said. Please can all parents ensure students attend lessons according to the timetable.

Half Term - 15th–19th February

No new school work will be set for students over half term, I think we all need a break. There are some students in Year 11 and 13 that have ongoing coursework and non-examined assessments to complete; it is important that progress remains in these areas. We have produced an extra-curricular booklet which includes links to subjects and other related activities. This can be found following this link: <https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/students/extra-curricular/>. Students and families might like to dip in and out of this over the holiday.

Provision for Children of Key Workers

We are now planning our on-site provision for after half term.

At Oaklands, provision for students of critical workers and vulnerable students will re-commence on Monday 22nd February. This provision will continue until 8th March, when the Government intend to review the national lockdown for schools.

Schools have been asked to provide a service for children where the parents are in this key worker category **and** they cannot provide an alternative themselves for children during the school day.

The definition of key workers can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educationalprovision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

I must emphasise that this service is an emergency service and is only for key workers who cannot provide childcare at home. Please do not try and use this service if you do not fall into these categories. The provision in school will be very similar to the remote learning offer to students working at home.

If your child is currently attending the school key worker provision, you will have already received a letter asking you to confirm your child's place after half term.

Vulnerable students who are currently attending will automatically be included on the register.

If you are a key worker and now require a place for your child from 22nd February - 8th March 2021, please email Provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org as soon as possible and not later than midday on 9th February, stating your child's name, form group and what key worker job you have. Should we require it, we will request evidence of your job from your employer.

Confirmation emails regarding places in the on-site provision will be sent on Thursday 11th February.

Support for Parents

This week is Mental Health Week and parents may find this link useful. Students have been guided towards some resources in this week's safeguarding and wellbeing message.

[Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week 2021](#)

Tuesday 9th February is 'Safer Internet Day' and below is a link for parents and carers to use as a tool to discuss how to ensure that their children are safe online.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/i-am-parent-or-carer>

We have also added further resources to our website:

[Your child's screen time - parent guide.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](#)

[Fake news - parent factsheet.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](#)

The Oaklands Way will focus on safer Internet use next week. The theme this year is '*An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world*'.

Increasing Data Allowances on Mobile Devices

If you do not have a fixed broadband connection and depending on your provider, contract type and circumstances, you may be entitled to an increased mobile data allowance to support your child's learning. You can ascertain your eligibility for this provision and find out whether your mobile provider is part of this offer at this link:

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

In order for you to access this offer, we will need to gather information from you and make the request on your behalf. You can understand more about this by reading the privacy statement from the government here:

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/guide-to-collecting-mobile-information/privacy>

You will receive a link to a survey that you can complete to tell us if you think you meet these criteria before half term.

Finally, thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr M Quinn', is positioned above the printed name.

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher