

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

14 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

After saying that I was not going to write home to parents as often, I find myself writing to you again this week.

As I am sure you are aware, the DfE Guidance on Masks in school changes from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May and from this point masks will no longer be compulsory in school. Further DfE guidance can be found by following [this link](#).

The Government may reintroduce the use of face coverings for pupils for a temporary period in response to particular localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. I will confirm this with you should it be necessary.

Please remember that students will still have to wear face coverings on public transport.

The wearing of face coverings in school has not been without controversy since the introduction earlier this year. Some families may believe that the recent change in DfE policy represents a step too far, too soon. For this reason, if your child wishes to continue to wear a mask, they may do so.

All the other control measures remain in place in school. We will again reinforce these during Tutor Time on Monday.

It is also important that all children who have taken home a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) Kit continue with testing and reporting on a Sunday and Wednesday evening by 7.00pm using Test Register.

## Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association – Uniform Shop

Orders for nearly-new uniform should be placed by Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June by emailing [opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org). The return email will confirm your order and the amount owed and payment should be made via the Scopay system. Items can then be collected from the Second Hand Uniform Shop at the end of the Chapel building on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Students can pick orders up at 3.30pm on their way home or parents can come on site after the gates open.

If you have any uniform items that you can donate (particularly PE kit), in good condition and laundered, please bring these into our Reception at the White House or send in via your child to Student Services. Thank you.

## **Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association – Raffle**

As part of Fundraising Friday on 25<sup>th</sup> June, the OFPA would like to hold a raffle for two deluxe hampers - a selection of pamper products and a selection of summer food and drink. If you are able to donate something for either or both of these hampers, please bring items into school and leave with our Reception desk - all contributions very welcome! More details about the Fundraising Event and how to buy tickets for the OFPA raffle will be sent home after half term.

## **Sexual Harm**

Parents will be aware from recent media reports that incidents of sexual harm and harassment have hit the headlines through the posts on the 'Everyone Invited' website. There is clearly a wider issue in society related to sexual harm and we acknowledge that schools, along with parents, have their part to play in addressing these concerns.

We are taking a number of steps at Oaklands across the course of this term in line with guidance from the DfE, the Local Authority and supported by resources from the NSPCC.

The first action is a short survey which will be sent to every student in school. It is anonymous and it will help us identify what the specific issues are in our context and how effectively any concerns are reported and managed. This will be completed in the final week of this half term. Once the results are analysed, there will be small student voice groups with our Safeguarding Governor and pastoral staff to go further into any issues raised. We will use this information to form the basis of staff safeguarding training in the second half of term and recommend key action points for school improvement.

The students missed their PDC and RSE lessons during the lockdown and now they have resumed, we have seen real enthusiasm from them for the topics these subjects cover, recognising their importance in terms of 'life skills'. Through these lessons and The Oaklands Way, we can continue to educate our students about healthy, respectful relationships.

Where concerns are raised and reported, our team of Designated and Deputy Safeguarding Leads follow all the current guidance in managing any allegations.

We look to work with parents, as the first educators of their children, in ensuring Oaklands is a safe and happy environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**