

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

18 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In school this week, we have had a further two suspected COVID-19 cases, resulting in students and staff isolating. This is a sobering reminder that this pandemic is far from over and that children and young adults remain largely in the unprotected groups.

I know from speaking with colleagues in other parts of the country, we have currently fared well. However, the national 'R' rate, published last week confirmed a rate of between 1.2 and 1.4 and it is likely that the position will get worse before it gets better.

The impact of the Delta variant on schools in Bolton and Blackburn with Darwen should act as a warning to the rest of the country; it is incumbent on us to do all we can in school to protect teachers and students. Regular lateral flow tests are one way we can do that and so once again, I ask that all students take a test and upload the results to Test Register every Wednesday and Sunday before 7.00pm.

Thankfully the Government vaccine programme is moving on at a pace. We look forward to the point where all adults have had the second dose; according to the latest figures from Public Health England (PHE) whilst the first does of the jab offers protection of between 30% and 36%, it is not until the second does is administered, will the greatest level of protection be achieved. For most young adults this will be some time off.

It is this sort of information, alongside the Government guidance, that helps us make some of the very difficult decisions related to what we have had cancel and what shall go ahead, in particular the decision related to the Year 11 Prom and the Year 13 leavers' celebration.

The rules state very clearly what type of agreed events can take place and where we would be in breach of the law if we attempted to organise certain events and activities. Our term for students finishes on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July and for staff on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The demands on some staff over the holiday period will be significant with the Summer School, Holiday Food Programme and issuing of A Level and GCSE grades. It would be inappropriate to demand anything else from staff once the holiday begins. Equally, any event that was rearranged for after the end of term would result in numbers of students and staff being unable to attend, as holiday plans have already been made. It is not in the spirit of the Oaklands community to run events into the summer holidays which are not open to all.

## Fundraising Friday

Sadly, this fundraising day was one of the casualties of the country not progressing to Step 4. The events we had planned to raise money for the charity DEBRA, necessitated the mixing of year groups. I am sure you remember that earlier this year Freddie Fincham, a student in Year 9, sadly passed away. The charity DEBRA supported Freddie and his family. Instead of the activities we will now hold a non-uniform day. I will write to you about this by separate letter and we will also post to you a short video made by Freddie's form group talking about our fundraising efforts.

## Summer School

We have contacted all students coming to Oaklands next September inviting them to a two week summer school. The uptake for this event has been very positive. There are still a few places remaining. **This event is for students currently in Year 6 who have a place at Oaklands starting September 2021.** If you have a child who falls into this category and would like them to take part, [please follow this link](#). Places are offered on a first come first served basis.

## Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Over the last two school holidays, Oaklands has successfully run a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. This is a Government initiative to support families. We will be running this programme again this summer, which targets, in the first instance, FSM children.

The programme dates are as follows:

26 July - 30 July 2021

2 August - 6 August 2021

9 August - 13 August 2021

16 August - 20 August 2021

**Our HAF provision is aimed at youngsters in the current Year 4 and Year 5.** If you have children in this age range and you meet the criteria, booking details can be found on a [flyer on the school website](#).

## Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association – Uniform Shop

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.

The OFPA will be holding two more uniform days this academic year, one in July and one in August. Parents will be able to place their orders via email and then come into school to collect. More details of the dates and times will be published before the end of term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**