

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of a very busy half-term, and I am sure that both you and your children are looking forward to a well-deserved break next week. I think that this term more than ever, we have been doing everything possible to make up for the time when our pupils were not able to come to school and to focus on some of the basics. This work will continue next half term.

Farewell to Year 11 and Year 13

This week we said farewell to Year 11 and Year 13. I would like to wish them every success and happiness for the future. They have had such an uncertain and unsettling time during their KS4 and KS5 courses, yet they have handled themselves with a real sense of maturity. It has been a particularly difficult period for these students as they have managed the challenges of in-class assessments contributing to Teacher Assessed Grades. If it is any consolation, in normal times many Year 11 students would now be facing up to 25 external public exams over the next few weeks. They have applied themselves fully and we are now in the process of assessing and moderating in order to arrive at their grades. We are overseeing a very rigorous process in order that students get the results they deserve and help them on their way with post-16 courses.

Please keep our Year 11 and Year 13 students in your thoughts and prayers as they embark on the next stages of their lives; they are a credit to themselves, you and the school. We will miss them dearly. For both cohorts we will continue to provide access to online support materials and we look forward to seeing many of Year 11 back for the Sixth Form taster events.

Thank You

I have seen many staff walking about with cards and gifts from Year 11 and Year 13 students; your generosity and spirit is testimony to the positive relationships between staff and students. On behalf of all my colleagues thank you for your generosity and kind words.

Missing Books

I am aware that some students in Year 11 and Year 13 have not yet handed back text books or library books. Please can you ensure these are returned to school as soon as possible.

Alumni

A reminder that there are many ways in which former students can enrich the life of the school and we, therefore, strongly encourage those students leaving the school to keep in touch. We have set up the Oaklands Alumni administered through a company called **Future First**. To this end we ask students for their contact details when they leave. Older siblings who have already left Oaklands and who may also be interested in joining may do so by following this link: [Future First](#). Further details of how former students can get involved with school activities together with the Future First Privacy Policy can be found on the Oaklands Website under Community and then Alumni.

Parent Consultation Evenings – Year 8 and Year 12

Thank you for your understanding with events such as Parent Consultation Evenings which have had to follow a different format and be conducted remotely this half term. We are conscious that this is not necessarily the same as being able to come into school, but generally this format continues to be well received by parents. Year 12 have their consultation evening on Thursday 10th June. Year 8 will have their second evening, albeit in a slightly different format, on Thursday 17th June. Mr Bamford will write to you with the details for this event.

COVID-19 Restrictions

Sadly, this term we have had a number of year groups in isolation and a number of false alarms. My inbox around this has been mixed; the school has to follow the guidance; where this directs isolation, these are the rules we must follow. When we have a positive LFT followed by a negative PCR test, like you, we want students to return to school as quickly as possible. This may necessitate an early morning or late evening email or text. In future we will indicate the timescale in which your child should return, should you be advised at short notice.

We have recently been able to lift some of the restrictions in line with Government guidance, but for the time being, we still have to adhere to pupils working and learning in year group bubbles and having separate areas for social and eating arrangements. We have managed to get to this point in the pandemic with minimal disruption to learning, however classroom practice is not yet back to normal. We have to strike the right balance between opening up further 'normal' school activities and events and maintaining the safety of staff and pupils at school. It has been lovely to see our pupils getting the opportunity to take part in after-school clubs again and this is something we want to continue with for the rest of the summer term.

Home Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you for continuing to carry out the self-tests for COVID-19 at home and letting us know the results. All students have been provided with sufficient LFT Home Testing Kits which they should continue to use twice weekly during the half term holiday.

We have had a good return rate through Test Register and results need to continue to be submitted by 7.00pm on Wednesday and Sunday over the holidays and into next term.

Over half term, we are responsible for track and trace so it is important that parents ensure we are informed of all test results, including any PCR tests taken should your child develop COVID-19 symptoms. This of course particularly applies should your child test positive.

If there are any issues with logging a result with Test Register, please email test results to covidtest@oaklandscatholicschool.org

All the information previously communicated regarding home testing still applies and can be viewed on the school website. It is important that students continue to register tests both with the school and the NHS through Test Register and thank you for your support in helping us achieve such a high return rate.

Curriculum Events After Half Term

The rest of the summer term will include some assessments for Year 10 and Year 12 as we are keen to ascertain exactly where any gaps might be and what needs to be done to address these prior to them starting the final year of their courses.

Transition work will also begin in earnest after the break as we begin preparing for our next incoming year group. I sincerely hope that for them, and for your children, the next academic year can be a more settled one than we have experienced of late.

After half term the timetable will change to allow Year 9 to begin their GCSE option courses. All students in Years 7-12 have been issued with both a new lesson timetable and homework timetable (if necessary), in readiness for these changes.

Please note that Monday 7th June is a Staff INSET day. Students return on Tuesday the 8th June.

I wish you all a relaxing and peaceful break.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher