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Head Teacher: Neil Oxley

Oaklands School

"The best for all, the best from all"

23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you are aware, yesterday the Prime Minister released his plan to reduce Covid restrictions. His announcement included that all students who have been remote learning at home will return to school from 8th March. It has been made clear that attendance at school will be mandatory from 8th March and all students in all year groups must attend school.

From 8th March the school will operate as it did during the Autumn Term where students will be part of their year group bubble, meaning they will be taught and will socialise only with other students in their year group. The same safety and control measures will be in place as per the autumn term and an updated risk assessment will be uploaded on the school website shortly that will provide more detail (you will be informed via a text message when it is available).

One significant difference to the school compared to the autumn term is the provision of the LFD asymptomatic Covid testing for pupils. The government have asked all schools with secondary aged students to implement the following testing procedure:

- 1) From the week beginning 8th March, the pupils who have yet to attend school this term will receive 3 LFD tests on school site.
- 2) Once the initial 3 tests have been completed on-site, then (from the week beginning 15th March) students will complete 2 LFD tests each week at home.
- 3) School staff will continue to be tested twice each week on school site, until the week beginning 15th March, when they will complete two LFD test each week at home.

(Please note that the information I have provided above may change during this week in relation to the number of test students will take each week. If there are any changes I will inform you accordingly)

I understand that you may have concerns regarding your child completing the test, both in school and at home. I would like to confirm that all testing remains voluntary, and your child will still be permitted to attend school if they do not undertake tests. Testing is also consent based, meaning you must allow for your child to be tested by completing the consent form which will be sent out to you shortly. I would like to mention that the vast majority of the students currently attending school have taken the test and their attitude and compliance has been exemplary.

To enable us to complete the testing of pupils during the week beginning 8th March, we will be implementing a phased return to school for the students who have not yet attended this term, such that:

- 1) Key Stage 4 student (year 10, 11 and 12 students) will return on Monday 8th March.
- 2) Key stage 3 students (year 7, 8 and 9 students) will return on the Tuesday 9th March.

Transport will be informed of the phased return.

The reason for the phased return is so that we can effectively keep pupils in small classes on the day they return to school, so in the unfortunate event that a pupil is tested positive for Covid-19 only a small number of children will need to return home and self-isolate. I do not wish to, and am therefore trying to prevent a situation where whole year groups of pupils will need to self-isolate. Something I am sure you will understand and agree with.

I hope you have found the remote learning package useful and engaging during this term. However, as the school will fully open from 8th March the remote learning offer will stop.

I understand that you may have questions regarding the full opening of the school and you may have some concerns about your child attending. I will continue to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to keep pupils as safe and supported as possible. I would also like to inform you that all staff at Oaklands Schools have been offered the Covid-19 vaccine, and the vast majority have been able to receive it so far, providing an additional safety measure.

To help explain the contents of this letter in more detail and to answer any questions you have I will be holding a parents/carer virtual Zoom meeting this Friday 26th Feb 2021 at 2:00pm (details below)

Topic: Oaklands Parent Carer Meeting - 26/02/21 2:00pm

Time: Feb 26, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

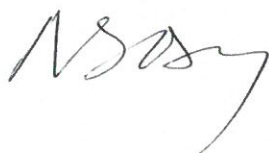
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84674552849?pwd=ajQzRE5rei82dWROT2Fha0lQZm90Zz09>

Meeting ID: 846 7455 2849

Passcode: VL0K41

In the meantime if you have any questions or would like to speak to a member of staff please contact the school office who will be happy to help.

Best wishes



Mr Oxley

Headteacher