

AWF/NPM

14th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Christmas break approaches, I would like to thank staff, students, parents and governors for their hard work and support this term. As I look back on my notes from last year, it is difficult to comprehend what we have all gone through; I'm sure you will agree, 2020 has been a year like no other.

Our students have been absolutely fantastic and have demonstrated resilience and responsibility in abundance on a daily basis. Getting back in to a routine after so long out of education is a challenge, that we, at times, underestimate, however, we have been blown away by their determined and positive attitude. They have really risen to the challenge and should be highly commended for this.

Thank you to our parents and carers. Like the students, you have also faced significant challenges and your calm and supportive nature has been evident throughout. We realise that some families have been impacted more than others during this pandemic and I want to ensure that all families are aware of the support that the academy can offer. Thank you for your patience, understanding and adaptability with home learning and for your emails, phone calls, social media posts and words of support.

I want to take this opportunity to recognise the significant role that the staff have played over the first term. Moving from classroom to classroom every day and teaching from the front of the classroom has taken a while for us all to get used to, on top of training ourselves on remote learning and balancing the obvious demands of our homes and families. They have been as committed as ever to ensure all our learners at OHA are provided with the highest quality of education possible.

Throughout a term of Covid restrictions, I think it important to recognise some real positives that have emerged:

- Despite the end of Y6 being disrupted and no transition taking place, Year 7 have made an extremely positive start to the academic year
- The introduction of our new KS3 curriculum has been well received by staff and students and will enable all students to be challenged appropriately
- Our new look Personal Tutor time has made a strong impact on students understanding of our core values
- All students in the academy are fully aware of what it means to be an OHA-er and know what our academy values stand for (please test them on this)
- The reorganisation of lunchtime has made this time a much more purposeful and structured part of the academy day

Before we break up next Thursday 17th December, there are a couple of events that I want to make you aware of:

Christmas Dinner

Our traditional Christmas Dinner will be served to students and staff (over 1050 meals!) on Thursday 17th December. All students have the opportunity to receive lunch served by the Senior Leadership Team and Year Group Leaders. It should be a fantastic day for all. We have taken all the necessary precautions to ensure the students have a worthwhile and positive experience with their year groups.

Thursday 17th December 2020

The academy will close on Thursday 17th December at our normal time. There will not be a half day that day and students will spend period 5 with their Personal Tutors to ensure they get a warm send off before the holidays. Please see the attached letter for more details.

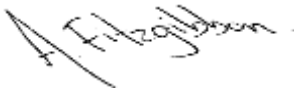
January Opening

The academy will re-open to students on Tuesday 5th January 2020, at the usual time of 8:30am. Please ensure academy standards are adhered to on return and uniform is worn to highest possible standard. Festive nails, hair and piercings need to be left at home alongside any inappropriate footwear.

I wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas under very different circumstances than normal and a wonderful New Year.

We look forward with hope and optimism to an improving and positive picture for all of us.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Fitzgibbon
Principal