



Appledore Gardens
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2AQ

tel: 01444 414001
email office@oathall.org
website www.oathall.org

Headteacher: Mr E Rodriguez MA BSc (Hons)

12th February 2021

Dear Parents

I hope this end of half-term note finds you and your families well.

Thank you for all that you have done to support your children and their learning over the past months. I appreciate how challenging it must have been at times to maintain your child's motivation. The short, cold winter days haven't helped in this regard; reducing the opportunities for taking regular exercise and breaks from the time spent in front of a screen. I am regularly informed about how well the students have remained engaged in their learning and clearly your efforts as well as the live-streamed lessons have played a part in this.

For those who were able, thank you for taking the time to respond to our recent survey. The results and comments have been really useful to us as we continue to develop our remote-learning provision. Amongst other things, from your feedback, it is clear that you value the live-tutor sessions also. As a result, we will increase the frequency of these with sessions to be scheduled on both Tuesdays and Fridays after the break.

I truly wish I were in a position to be able to offer you some further insight into the government's plans to reopen schools. There is of course much speculation about this with ideas of regionally based, phased returns being regularly discussed in the press. What we do know is that the Prime Minister 'hopes' to see schools beginning to reopen from the 8th March, but as he admitted, 'much would need to go right' for that to happen. We anticipate that further news on this should be announced on or before the 22nd of February.

Whilst the current situation is difficult for all students, our year 11 students face particular challenges of course. We very much look forward to sharing definitive news and details of how their grades will be awarded this year. The DfE consultation on this closed at the end of January, the results and conclusions of which are expected in the coming weeks. A separate [letter to parents of year 11 students](#) is also being sent today.

We have continued to maintain an on-site provision for those critical worker families who have requested a place as well as those students considered to be vulnerable. I would like to extend my thanks to all those colleagues who have worked so hard to make this possible and support the children so effectively.

The forthcoming half-term holiday provides an excellent opportunity for some rest and recuperation. The school will not be setting the children any work for this week and I would encourage them to spend plenty of time away from their screens.

To remind you, **Monday, 22nd February** is a calendared INSET day and therefore the school will also be closed, meaning there will be no onsite provision on this day.

This is a staff training day and as such, no work will be set on Google Classroom and no live lessons will be taking place. Students may take this time to go back over key learning, this being particularly important for year 11 students who will have assessments of some form later in the year.

Remote learning will start again as usual on Tuesday 23rd February. Please ask your child to check from 8.30am which live lessons they have and what work they have on Google Classrooms. If you have any questions regarding remote learning, do not hesitate to email remotelearning@oathall.org

The staff at Oathall have worked tremendously hard trying to ensure the best possible remote education experiences and to secure a continuity of learning under these exceptional circumstances. I know that the constructive feedback and the many positive messages from you have been very welcome and gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your families a restful half-term break.

Kind regards

Edward Rodriguez
Headteacher