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Dear Parents

It was wonderful to welcome our new year 7 students to Oathall for their induction day today. It was an opportunity for them to meet with their new form tutors and experience some lessons as well as become a little bit more familiar with the site before they return for their first full week on Monday. Thank you to Mrs Hatchard and Mrs Newnham for making the day such a success.

We are all very much looking forward to seeing the return of **all** Oathall students on Monday, 7th September and I thought it might be useful to draw your attention to a few things that hopefully, address any final questions that you may have.

We are collating our responses to a number of frequently asked questions, which are now posted on our [website](#). We will continue to update this over the coming days.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, one of the most common questions is about the use of face-coverings in the school. We will support the use of face-coverings in corridors and other communal areas if the children wish to wear them, but this will not be mandatory at present. We ask that face-coverings are removed whilst in the classroom. Students who choose to wear a face covering must wear it correctly and place it in a bag or a box when not in use.

Alongside the large number of procedures and risk assessments, written to cover all aspects of school life, we have included one that describes more generally how we will be managing things at the school. Although principally targeted at our teachers, this is also available on our [website](#) should you wish to read it. I also refer you back to my letter dated 25th August, a copy of which is available on our [website](#), which gives details about the students' return to school.

The DfE have also published their updated guidance for parents, which you can find [here](#).

Inevitably, a number of students will not have made as much progress during home learning as they would have made in school. It is essential we ensure that this does not adversely affect their long-term outcomes. We have implemented a range of measures to address this challenge. The curriculum is being adapted in each subject to provide time for teachers to address gaps in knowledge. Regular assessment will be used to identify areas of weakness and lessons will be planned to address these areas. When needed students will work in small groups or individually with a member of staff to support intervention. In addition to this, students from exam classes will attend sessions after school. Homework will play an important part in the students' recovery from any loss of learning and so it will be vital that they reinforce what is covered in school with their studies at home.

The start of the new school term is always approached with a mixture of anticipation, apprehension and excitement. This was certainly evident in the hall today as we greeted our new year 7 students. There are many changes that have needed to be implemented to ensure that our school community can return as safely as is possible. Whilst much planning and preparation has taken place, we will learn from the experiences of the coming days and weeks and develop our arrangements as required. I thank you for your patience and support during this period of transition.

Yours faithfully

Edward Rodriguez
Headteacher