



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)

14th December 2021

Dear Parent

End of term and arrangements for return to school in January

I write as our autumn term draws to a close to highlight some key information about the coming days and also about our return in the New Year.

It has been a very busy and successful term notwithstanding the significant challenges we have faced. The Oathall staff have worked very hard to ensure not only best of learning experiences for the students (both in person and on-line) but also to provide a programme of enrichment activities that help make the secondary school experience so special.

Visitors to the school have routinely commented on the students' excellent attitude to learning and approach to their school life. I would like to particularly commend our students in Year 11 who have been studying so hard in readiness for their recently concluded mock examinations.

I appreciate that for many of you, the continuing pandemic has significantly impacted your lives over recent weeks. Thank you for all that you have done to support your children and the school this term.

Last week, we were able to host our Christmas concert. It was such a pleasure to see our hall once again being filled with music and performances of the highest standard. Thank you if you were able to join us and to provide that much needed audience to whom our students could perform.

Our last day of the term is Friday 17th December and the school will be closing at 12:50pm on that day following final assemblies and extended tutor periods. School bus services have been notified accordingly.

Start of term arrangements

The Department for Education has recently asked all secondary schools to offer an on-site COVID test for students on their return to school in the New Year. As a result, we will need to introduce staggered start times for students in January. Our plan is to minimise any disruption to learning and get students back into their lessons as soon as is practicable.

If you would like to withdraw consent previously given to the school, please confirm this to the school [via this on-line form](#). Otherwise, prior consent records will carry forward to the January tests. Consent privacy notices can be found on [our website here](#).

Please note that on-site tests will not be available for any student who has tested positive for Covid since October 2021.

[The timetable for students testing and return is available on the website here.](#)

After students have been tested in school they should then take a further test at home 3-4 days later and then continue to test twice-weekly at home.

Students are also encouraged to test over Christmas in accordance with current public health advice. Students may wish to take a rapid lateral flow test in situations where they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. This includes spending time in crowded and enclosed spaces, or before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they catch COVID-19.

We would like to remind you about the [remote learning](#) section of our website. If your child is isolating and well enough to undertake work, they are asked to follow their usual timetable each day. The work set will be on each of their subject's Google Classrooms. See [here](#) for their codes. If they have any questions, they are encouraged to email their teachers directly. You may also direct any general queries to remotelarning@oathall.org. In Years 7, 8 & 9, students may also like to attempt one of our [Super Curriculum](#) activities. May I also draw your attention to the following key diary dates for the first half term of the New Year:

- Y11 Parents' evening - 11th January
- Y9 Options evening - 26th January
- Y9 Parents' evening - 3rd February
- School production - 16th to 18th February
- Half term - 21st to 25th February
- INSET day - 28th February. College will be closed to students

As we approach the end of term, and the much needed and well-deserved rest that it will bring, we also sadly say farewell to two Oathall teaching staff who will be leaving us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Gaston and Mrs Amy Perou for all that they have contributed to the Oathall community during their time with us. I am sure you would want to join me in wishing them every happiness for the future.

In addition, we say farewell to Mrs Corbett, Assistant Head of Year 9, who has been a valued member of the Student Support team over the last 5 years.

I would also like to thank Ms Murray who has done a tremendous job as temporary Head of Year 8 this term. Ms Murray's focus returns to her Inclusion Manager role in January and I am delighted to welcome Mrs Powell to Oathall as Head of Year 8. Mrs Dore will be supporting Mrs Powell as Assistant Head of Year 8.

On behalf of the governors and all Oathall staff, may I wish you all a very good Christmas break and a happy 2022.

E Rodriguez
Headteacher