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Dear Parents

It is fair to say that this is an end to an academic year like no other. Since we formally closed back in March we have all had to work in unprecedented and very testing ways. I want to publicly thank all of the college staff for their dedication and commitment during this time. I must also thank you, our parents, for all that you have done in guiding your children, ensuring that they remained focused, organised and supported over these past months. I appreciate what a challenge it may have been.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students in all year groups back to Oathall in September. Clearly, the health and well-being of all our school community is paramount and I wanted to outline the arrangements we are putting in place at the school. I would also encourage you to refer to the [college website](#) regularly throughout the summer break, where you will find all the latest information relating to our re-opening.

### **New ways of working**

In order to minimise the risk of transmission and effectively support any tracking and tracing requirements, the DfE guidance makes clear the need to maintain groups or 'bubbles' of students. At secondary level, it is understood that these groups may need to be defined as an entire year group.

- Mixing of students across year groups will be actively avoided in school with variations to break and lunchtime routines accordingly.
- School timetables will be modified to minimise the movement of students during the day, reducing the number of room changes so that potential year group mixing can be avoided.
- The usual model of classes moving to the teacher will be reversed so that classes can remain in the same teaching space for much of the day.
- Enhancements to cleaning routines will be taking place as will individual hygiene requirements (washing hands, etc).
- Desks will be arranged to ensure that students are facing the front. The teachers will be required to direct students' learning from zoned areas at the front of the classroom.
- Students in year 7 to 9 will be taught, for the most part, in the same teaching group.

- Students in year 10 and 11 will follow their usual GCSE programme, albeit timetabled to minimise the number of room changes.
- Initially, extra-curricular activities will be limited.
- House assemblies will not be held.

## **Student and Family Support**

We know that people will have been affected by the pandemic in a variety of ways. We see it as vital that we maintain the pastoral support we offer to the students on their return. The Heads of House will be working very closely with their tutor teams to ensure that the needs of the students are met. As before, time will be spent each day as a tutor group.

It is understood that your own circumstances may have changed. If you require any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us ([office@oathall.org](mailto:office@oathall.org)) to discuss things further. You can also find some useful online resources available [here](#).

As per the DfE guidance, we will be following our usual attendance procedures. If you have any concerns about the return of your child in September, please contact their Head of House as soon as you are able.

## **Learning, progress and the curriculum**

It is vital that students have a break over the summer holiday period. However, we are also mindful of the amount of time students have had out of school. With this in mind, we have created suggested reading lists over the summer for current years 7 and 8. A short period of reading every day will aid literacy and vocabulary development. Students currently in years 9 and 10 have a Learning Package available to them for all their GCSE subjects. This is available on our website under the 'learning' menu and also at these links:

[Key stage 3 summer reading list](#)  
[GCSE summer learning package](#)

We understand and share the concerns that many have regarding the gaps in learning that may have developed. In addition to the summer reading lists and learning package, we have thorough plans in place for September. Lessons will be planned to re-engage students with their classes in each of the subjects. Early in the term a range of strategies will be used to assess how well students have learnt each topic during home learning. This will be used to plan what content will need to be revisited. Teachers within each faculty are reviewing their schemes of learning accordingly. Homework will be carefully planned to reinforce key learning. Where needed, additional sessions will be provided and small groups or one to one work will be implemented to help students who require this level of support.

## Start of Autumn Term

I would like to confirm some important dates and times for our September return.

**Thursday 3rd September**

**Friday 4th September**

**Monday 7th September**

**Staff Training**

**Year 7 Induction**

**Return for all year groups**

On the Monday, all students are asked to arrive at school **no earlier than 8:30am** and must go directly to their tutor rooms. Registers will be called at 8:45am for all year groups.

Students will be expected to return in full [school uniform](#). However, on days in which they have PE, they should attend school in their Oathall PE uniform as we are unable to use the changing rooms at present. Please note if skorts are worn they must be worn with plain black leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

Students must arrive fully equipped for learning and this is particularly important under the current circumstances as we can't share resources. You can find a list of our minimum requirements [here](#).

Student timetables will be published via Insight from 3rd September and tutor room details will also be published on the college website

As the academic year draws to a close, we say goodbye to Ms Da Silva and Ms Ledwidge. Mr Parsons retires after some 28 years of service to the college. As well as inspiring many generations of Oathall students through his teaching of science, Mr Parsons has been an outstanding pastoral leader both as Head of Year and most recently as Head of Endeavour House.

May I thank you for all your support. On behalf of the governors and staff of the college, I wish you and your families a safe and restful summer.

E Rodriguez  
Headteacher

<sup>1</sup> See separate letter from Mrs Hatchard sent to all Year 7 parents