



15th December 2020

Dear Parents

It has been an interesting term to say the least as we moved into a bubble situation after a long lockdown pre the summer holidays. Students have responded well and have worked hard to recover any lost learning, with Year 11 currently preparing for their mock exams starting early in January 2021. As we approach the end of the Autumn Term and move quickly towards the festive break I would like to say a big thank you to staff, students and parents for the continued commitment in ensuring students achieve their personal best.

Despite social distance restrictions we have progressed our extra-learning provision especially for high ability in Year 10, 8 and 7 where we have been running the Brilliant Club and the EXTEND:ACCELERATE programme.

During this half-term 12 successful applicants from Year 10 were selected to be involved in an outstanding opportunity with the Brilliant Club. The project, entitled the Scholars Programme, enables students to engage with supra-curricular topics with a PhD tutor based on their unique specialism.

In Years 7 and 8, students worked on an enrichment opportunity called EXTEND: ACCELERATE, which allows students to explore a range of practises to help them to reflect on how they can be even more successful. The group meet virtually, in person and have weekly challenges to complete around leadership skills, being digital champions, becoming more emotionally literate and so much more.

Supporting children and families in need

Due to the current situation we have seen a dramatic increase in families needing support especially with food supplies. Since lockdown in March we have continued to provide food parcels and daily meals either in school or at home. We have also linked with our local church food bank to donate excess food supplies. Over the Christmas period parents who have been supported previously with food vouchers will be issued with emails with codes to purchase food and essential supplies. This has been organised through Southampton City Council and Edenred, the voucher provider.

To support our families who do not have access to a computer or digital device we have ensured that all students in Year 10 and Year 11 have an iPad or laptop on loan to access remote learning. From March 2021 with our Horizons Digital Programme all students and staff will receive an iPad with a keyboard and cover attached. As mentioned in previous communication I have managed to acquire a number of Vodafone SIM cards which can be used to tether internet to a laptop or remote device for 6 months. Please contact reception leaving your name and telephone number if you would like to be considered for a SIM card.

Principal – Mr M Brown

Oasis Academy Sholing
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The recent virtual parents afternoon was a success with over 65% of parents accessing the virtual Teams offer with another 20% requesting telephone contact. We are now planning our next selection of virtual parents evenings for 2021.

As part of the bubble planning on site we will rotate the year groups next term to offer a different area of the school for learning and recreation. This will also offer the opportunity for Year 7 to see another area other than the Science block and become accustomed to the site before the restrictions are hopefully lifted.

Site development

Lockdown has caused a delay in our re-building programme to some extent, however we are nearing completion of the changing room rebuild including single cubicle shower facilities. The Sports Hall and Gym will also be renovated in the New Year with new heating systems and windows. CCTV will be installed on our outside pitches and roof replacement planned for three main block buildings. Finally the toilet refurbishment will continue to phase 2 starting with the science block toilets being demolished and upgraded to a modern standard.

The planned build 2020 of our **new Reception, Sports Hall/Food Hall** adding capacity to dining facilities and PE activities will commence in Easter 2021.

Christmas Jumper extravaganza

A big thank you to all the students and staff who attended in festive clothes last Friday and experienced the traditional Christmas dinner. There was a fantastic feel to the day and was welcomed by all especially at the end of such a long term. Students and staff raised £620.00 for various charities including Save the Children. More information can be found on our website.

Uniform

A thank you to parents who have been checking uniform, whilst in a bubble situation we will continue to ask students to attend in their PE kit if they have a PE lesson. Students have been asked to only wear school PE kit and hoodies/branded sweatshirts are not allowed. Wearing masks continually has enabled some students to hide nose rings/studs, a reminder that nose piercings are not allowed.

School closure due to inclement weather

As we approach the inclement weather can I re-emphasise school closure due to unforeseen circumstances. The decision to close a school will never be made lightly and consideration must be given to the safety of the students, parents and staff, this includes the journey to and from school, the safety of the site and efficiency of the heating system. In the event of a closure due to adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen emergencies, the Cluster Headteachers and Oasis South Coast Principals will work together to ensure that similar decisions regarding opening or closing are made for all or some of the schools. Should it be necessary to close the Academy in the event of an emergency, we will keep you informed through our text messaging service, the school website and the local authority website (www.southampton.gov.uk). We are anticipating that if closure does occur lessons will be delivered remotely.

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The Autumn term will end on Thursday 17th December at 2.40 for Years 8 and 10 and 2.45 for Years 7, 9 and 11 and **the Spring term will commence on Tuesday 5th January 2021**. The different year group staggered start times remain the same however Year 9 will enter the school at the new bottom entrance off South East Road and Year 7 will enter the school at the Heath Road entrance. We will end the term not being beaten by Covid, delivering our Christmas production remotely to all students and staff.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the students and staff at Oasis Academy Sholing to wish you a restful and enjoyable festive holiday looking forward to a well-deserved break!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Brown".

Martin Brown
Principal

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