

15th October 2021



Dear Parent

Firstly, thank you to all parents for your continued support in ensuring that your child regularly attends Oasis Academy Sholing especially at such a difficult time nationally.

As we approach half-term break it is timely to reflect on what has been a challenging term for many students. There was a welcome return to a semblance of normality and the restrictions of “bubbles” being lifted at the start of term.

We welcomed our new Year 7 after a successful summer school, and in Year 11 started to prepare for the forthcoming Examination Assessments.

We did, through comments from the student voice, retain some of the aspects from the previous school year. The students continue to exit from separate points for respective years with Key Stage 3 students leaving via Middle Road and Key Stage 4 via South East Road. Students have also retained their bubble areas at lunch out of choice, and we have purchased further storage and chiller facilities for the food delivery to match demand. We have welcomed a return to sporting fixtures, assemblies have resumed as well as a significant programme of extra-curricular activities.

It would be wrong however to assume that we are still not being affected by the pandemic. We continue to see children testing positive although certainly not as prevalent as last year. The students were outstanding in their maturity during the on-site flu vaccination and covid immunisation.

We will also see over half-term the replacement of the Sports Hall windows and Gym as well as further classroom refurbishments. We will be adding more external water fountains to complement the number installed during the summer holidays. Our school mini-buses have also been renovated with new Academy decals. You may see the mini-buses next half term as we increase our sporting fixtures and visits to those who need support returning to full time education.

As we approach the half term break a reminder that the last day will be **Thursday 21st October** as the following day is a National Oasis Trust INSET day. We also have a number of INSET days throughout the year as mentioned in previous communication:

Friday 22nd October
Friday 10th December
Monday 28th February
Friday 24th June
Friday 22nd July

Next year we will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations, this will include an **extra Bank Holiday on Tuesday 3rd May 2022** when most schools in Southampton will be closed. **Principal - Martin Brown**

Oasis Academy Sholing

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In discussion with a number of parents it is clear that experiences with regards to communication are mixed especially around the best format for school contact. Some parents are extremely comfortable with digital, social media communication whilst others prefer standard letter sent via email. I have asked staff that the main form of communication should be via email unless a telephone call is required. Facebook will be used for general specific news stories as with the website. Your support is welcome in this process and please contact the academy if you have changed your personal details including telephone number and/or email address.

Thank you to those parents who have registered interest in the Parental Engagement Group, further information will follow with regards to our inaugural meeting. I must say that the interest was positive and we will be short-listing over the next few days, due to the number of applications received.

I have been proud of our year 11 students who have decided to arrange a series of fundraising events during the past few weeks. Their compassion and energy was in support of our year 11 student, Bailey Dorward, who has been bravely fighting through his treatment with chemotherapy. The students have already raised over £450 on the school site with a staff vs student dodgeball match (where the students clearly cheated winning by a small margin even with my expert talent on the court) followed by a student led McMillan coffee morning. In support of the chosen cancer charities we will be hosting our first non-school uniform day of the school year on Thursday 21st October. Students should attend in sensible attire, normal school uniform applies with regards to make-up and jewellery for a small donation of £1.

Finally on the same day Year 11 have organised the Haunted Classroom!(Enter if you dare...!)Tickets are sale online to all Year 7 students from today, more details to follow.



The dress code of course being all things Halloween!

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Finally well done to the Year 9 and 10 students who participated in the Hampshire Police Apprentice Schools Media Competition Workshop. We have submitted a number of stunning performances based around why it is wrong to carry a knife in the community. Fingers crossed that we make it through to the finals with a starring BBC report.

Finally, we were exceptionally excited to have our annual Careers Fair back as a face to face event where all year groups had the opportunity to speak to a wide range of professionals from FE, HE and other thriving training providers across the city.

Please keep safe.

Kind regards

Martin Brown
Principal

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