

Orchard School Bristol

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INSPIRE TODAY, EMPOWER FOR LIFE

Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe **MA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you

As we head into the last 3 weeks of term, I am writing to thank you for your support in keeping your children engaged in their learning over this difficult time during Covid-19. Year 10s have been in school to meet their English, Maths, Science or Humanities teacher and have demonstrated a mature attitude to learning and some really impressive efforts to catch up with their studies.

Years 7, 8 and 9 students in school

In the last two weeks of term we would like to invite students in Years 7, 8 and 9 back in for a tutorial session, so they have the opportunity to catch up with their tutor and re-engage with school before the long summer holiday. I really do hope you will support this. Students will be given a precise time to come in usually in the afternoon, in small groups, following all of our usual social distancing and hygiene protocols. The majority of students will be invited in on the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the final week, as this is when we have more space in the school to manage children safely. Further information will come your way about this, but I wanted to let you know these plans in good time.

INSET Day – 16 July

For children of keyworkers and those with social workers, the school is open on the last week on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th July as usual. Thursday 16th July is an INSET day (this has been moved from the original planned INSET day on 29th June). This means the school is closed to all children on this day, including children of keyworkers and those with social workers. I apologise if this causes inconvenience, but the staff team do need to get curriculum and timetables prepared for September.

New House names

Your children are in the middle of voting for new House names. Staff recognised that our current House names did not have as much meaning for our students as we wanted them to have. Staff wanted something that related more to our Orchard School name – and the idea of names of orchards was put forward. As a result, there are 7 names of orchards in and around Bristol, and beyond, that have been put to the children in Years 7-10 for them to vote for. Please do encourage your child to cast their vote for their favourite 4 names – thinking about how the name sounds being shouted out at Sports Day, or how it would be to represent that House name in our many competitions!

Online Learning

The Covid-19 crisis has brought our online learning into closer focus. We are moving towards much more independent online study now, and as we look forward to September, I am very aware that students in school will be expected to use laptops more, and that home learning will also involve online quizzing and learning. Many Orchard students have access to laptops at home, which is an incredible support to them. If you are in a position to support your child moving forwards with access to a laptop at home, that would be fantastic. We are,



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however, looking at ways we can support more students through possible rental of a laptop from school in the future, and will keep in touch if we can make this work. The school is moving to Microsoft rather than Google, so all students will be trained in September how to use Outlook email and Microsoft classrooms in the cloud instead of Google.

Staff leaving and joining us

Finally, I wanted to let you know about the staff who are leaving us at the end of this academic year, and those who are joining us:

Leaving:

- Ms Abbie Cooper – Second in English
- Miss Kirsty Newcombe – English teacher
- Miss Sarah Barker – Science teacher
- Miss Kate Richards – Assistant Headteacher
- Mr Phil Edmonds – Head of Languages
- Ms Alice Hinks – Year 7

We have a number of new staff joining us, which is very exciting news. The school will reach 900 students in September and we have again been asked to take over 200 students in our next year 7 group. We have waiting lists in most year groups now, as the school is becoming more and more popular. We therefore require more staff to teach these students, especially in their core subjects of English, Maths and Science. I am very pleased to welcome the following people to our Orchard family:

- Mr Dave Spence – Assistant Headteacher
- Ms Carly Bryan – Head of Year 7
- Ms Nkoyo Antigha – Pastoral Manager for Year 7
- Miss Beckie Shepherd – SENDCo
- Miss Rebecca Drew – Head of Humanities
- Miss Claire Jones - Head of Languages
- Miss Alexandra Badea – Maths teacher
- Mr Ruori McIntyre – Maths teacher
- Ms Phoebe Pham – Maths teacher
- Ms Janet Criddle – Head of Science
- Miss Paulina Genzels – Science teacher
- Mr Simon Davies – Science teacher
- Miss Laura Clash – Head of English
- Miss Elsa Harriskine – Second in English
- Miss Kirsten Burrell – English teacher
- Miss Rachel Cox – English teacher

Yours sincerely



Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher