

## Orchard School Bristol

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

12 March 2021

Dear parents and carers

It has been a real delight to welcome your children back into school. We have had a superb week and are very proud of our students for the way they are managing back in school.

### First week back

Attendance and punctuality have been excellent overall, and although we have some tired faces at the end of the week, it's clear that students are enjoying being back in school. Uniform and equipment are very good and thank you for ensuring your children have face coverings with them – this has been an excellent start to term overall.

The safety of students and staff is paramount – there is nothing more important than ensuring everyone feels safe in school, so they can enjoy lessons again and build back confidence in their learning. It has been an absolute joy to see calm corridors, focused lessons, enthusiastic students in the classrooms and to hear peals of laughter again!

Students have spent time this week thinking about wellbeing with their tutor, and discussions are centred on wellbeing for the rest of this term. We recognise that some students will be struggling more than others to get back in to learning, and we have a team of three social, emotional and mental health practitioners, and two counsellors, who are supporting individuals and small groups with this. If you feel your child has struggled more than you expected this week, please do let your Pastoral Manager know and we can work out together the right support for them.

### Covid Testing

The lateral flow tests have gone extremely well so far. All first tests and subsequent tests as I write have been negative, which is great news. The students have managed the tests with maturity and calmness. The administration team, supported by staff from our central Trust, have worked together to make the testing process efficient and supportive, and they have all been very impressed by the students.

After the third test next week, the students will be given a set of home tests. All the instructions for carrying these home tests out are in the boxes. Further information will be shared next week about these.

### Year 6 into 7

The offers of school places went out again on 1<sup>st</sup> March and yet again we have been over-subscribed, so sadly will be disappointing many parents and young people who didn't get a place at their first or second preference and were hoping that Orchard had spaces left.



The school is full – we have moved from just over 600 students in 2017 to a full school of 925. It is wonderful that our local community is supporting Orchard so well.

### **Destinations – where do Orchard students go after Year 11?**

We have spent some time collating the destinations of our students and watching the increasing trend to study A Levels at local sixth form centres. As a school whose progress is 'above expected' – which means better than you would expect at an average school across the country, it has been fantastic to see the progression routes our young people take.

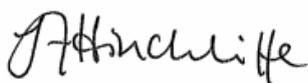
Of course, as we have no sixth form, we rely on students letting us know their post-18 destinations. So, it is particularly lovely to hear from ex-students (alumni) currently at universities studying a whole range of courses from Astrophysics to Zoology, at local universities such as UWE and Cardiff, to further away including universities of Cambridge, Manchester and Portsmouth. We love to hear from our alumni who have had successful apprenticeships, who are working in law, marketing, construction, hairdressing, and many more careers. We are thrilled when some have chosen to enter the teaching profession too!

Destinations data gives an idea of our students' aspirations, how their GCSE qualifications support their next steps, and how our Careers Information, Advice and Guidance enables students to move onto the destinations of their choice. We are very proud of all our students.

Destination	% Year 11 leavers
North Bristol Post16 (Redland Green and Cotham) – A Levels	18%
Other sixth form centres (St Brendan's, St Mary Redcliffe, V6) – A Levels	11%
Independent Schools (Colston's, Red Maids High) – A Levels	5%
BTEA (Engineering/Maths/Physics) - level 2 and 3 (A Level)	7%
SGS or City of Bristol College - A Levels and some vocational level 3 courses such as games design or health and social care	29%
Vocational courses at college - all levels, for example carpentry, IT, childcare and beauty therapy	25%
Special courses such as football academies, drama school	3%
Apprenticeships	2%

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes



Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher