

Orchard School Bristol

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

26 March 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope you and your family are well. The vast majority of students have come back into school brilliantly and we have seen a positive three weeks of classroom learning. I hope you enjoyed the newsletter which was sent out earlier this week which celebrated many of the wonderful achievements of our students, and the number of certificates which are being awarded is testament to this.

Social Media

I am concerned that there have been a few incidents between friendship groups which have spiralled, and this has often been started through social media. During lockdown, students have told us they spent lots of time on social media posting comments, but without facing directly the reactions to these. It would be really helpful if you could back up our staff conversations with students, and talk to your children about their social media use – reminding them that offensive comments or posting of unkind pictures is never acceptable, and if they see others doing this, they need to call out this behaviour and inform a teacher or Pastoral Manager. This is an essential part of our approach to Anti Bullying. Our Whisper Button on the website is an anonymous way of doing this too and is well used.

Anti-Bullying Gold Award 2021

We are proud to say that our anti-bullying practices have been reviewed again and we have been awarded the Gold Anti-Bullying Award 2021. This Award is provided by the Anti Bullying Alliance and of 4000 schools that have taken part in this only 9% are awarded the Gold. Congratulations to Grace Byron our Anti-Bullying Lead who has championed this.

Covid Home Testing

The vast majority of students are engaged in home testing twice a week. Thank you to parents and carers for your support with this. Please continue to report the results to [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result)

Results can also be reported by phoning 119.

The testing should continue through the holidays too. At the time of writing, we have had no confirmed cases in our school community, which is a huge relief. If your child does have a positive result, please inform the school on sbm@orchard.fila.school

Please note the lateral flow tests sent home with your child are only to be used when they have **no symptoms**. If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus ([information here](#)) you should follow the government guidelines and book them a PCR test with the NHS.

Helpful info on LFT testing can be found here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/coronavirus/guide-to-rapid-testing>



Year 11 Exams

Mr Grafton has written to Year 11 parents and carers about the way our Teacher Assessed Grades are being awarded. Further announcements from exam boards are due out in the next few days, and we will keep you up to date with these. We will also be letting you know about the likely last day of school for our Year 11s.

Year 9 Options

A reminder to Year 9 parents and carers that the Options forms are due in by Tuesday 30th March.

Uniform

There are a number of students - particularly in Years 7 to 10 - whose uniform isn't meeting expectations yet. Our uniform policy is clear, and we need to adhere to this. From Monday 19th April (next term), we expect students to have correct uniform, including correct trousers and school shoes.

We know finances are tight for many parents, and we want to help make sure that all your children are in the right uniform. If you are unable to purchase the uniform or shoes, please just email your Pastoral Manager before the end of term and we will arrange to fund this. We can purchase the right shoes or trousers, but we just need to know the size.

Year 7 – nantigha@orchard.tila.school

Year 8 – dpiper@orchard.tila.school

Year 9 – ebhakerd@orchard.tila.school

Year 10 – tpointing@orchard.tila.school

Catering

Finally, we are aware that there have been some concerns for Year 9 and 10 students who are having their lunch in the Assembly Hall (rather than the Dining Hall) this year, for distancing reasons. The space is well managed, with chairs and tables set out and a counter with hot and cold food provided. Unfortunately, on some days the long queues have taken too much time to serve, and a few of our students have ended up missing the start of their next lesson in order to finish their lunch properly. Our catering is provided by Caterlink, and this organisation is subcontracted by BAM who have ownership of the site and facilities as arranged through the City Council. Difficulties have arisen due to staffing concerns (Covid absence) but I want to reassure parents and carers that we are monitoring and reporting and expecting a quick resolution to this so that all Year 9 and 10 children can have a good lunch break.

Holiday Dates

Next week we expect all students in school from Monday to Wednesday 31st March. On Thursday 1st April there is a staff INSET day – no students in school. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holidays on Monday 19th April.

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

With best wishes



Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher