20th April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you managed to have an enjoyable and restful break and that you are keeping well.

Thank you again for your patience and for all you are doing at this time. Our community has banded together remarkably to support each other through this crisis, and the strength we can draw from this will stand us in good stead over the coming days and weeks.

Students have become confident in communicating with their teachers via Google Classroom, and are settling well into the routine of asking for and getting guidance on the work that they are completing. There have been some excellent examples of independent learning and students have been enthusiastically engaging with  their teachers in discussion about the subject tasks. The problems initially experienced by students trying to access additional on-line learning tools such as Hegarty Maths were soon resolved and students are now finding that these sites are easily accessible and they are able to complete the activities to support their learning.

We are heading into a rather different summer term but one, despite the uncertainty, where we have three clear objectives at Ormiston Rivers Academy that I wanted to share with you:

Firstly​, ​to deliver really strong virtual learning that all our students can access.​ Our main priority is your child’s education and with that in mind, we have been working really hard to make sure excellent learning can continue through the Google Classroom. Each subject classroom brings together resources, recorded lessons where staff will now upload videos to support with the lesson materials and give you tips and support, as well as teacher interaction so that we can continue our learning.

Secondly, to ensure that everyone in our community - students, teachers and parents - have the well-being support they need to help navigate these challenging times​. This is obviously a very strange and uncertain world we find ourselves in and we are incredibly mindful of the potential impact, particularly on our children’s mental health, of living more virtually, the restriction on movement and socialising and of course, the loss of loved ones. To help support you all, we are offering a range of support through our Well-Being page on our website and a dedicated Google classroom  on Mental health, physical health, nutrition, tips for working from home, books, videos, music, meditation and more. We also have a dedicated team making welfare checks and supporting our vulnerable families. You will start to receive a call from a member of staff that will check in with you to see how things are going. In addition, please remember that you all have access to support should you need it via our safeguarding/wellbeing team. [Wellbeing@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:Wellbeing@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

Thirdly, to continue to build and engage us as a community through fun and meaningful activities​ ​through the summer term​ and to equip our children, particularly in Years ​6 and Year 11 for the next stage of their journey. For our new Year 7 students we have created resources to support the transition programme, a separate letter will be shared shortly for those parents. For current Year 11 students, our Sixth Form team have been working with staff on a Google Classroom to help you transition into Year 12 and help you  make a great start. A letter will be shared shortly with more information on this to those students.

For those of you who have been receiving free school meal vouchers the Government has insisted that we move from our previous arrangements and that we use the Government's own scheme, which is operated by Edenred. We, like all other schools, are working closely with Edenred and the Government to deliver your vouchers as soon as possible. I know that due to the demand of this scheme the vouchers have been delayed, however this has now been set up and an email from the company should be on its way to you. So please do check your junk email; the email will come from “Edenred” not the academy. Any issues please contact [Amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:Amahoney@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

At the moment the Government has confirmed that the lockdown will continue into May.  As time goes on, I know that more of us are being affected by this situation and that some of you may be facing some very difficult challenges. We are all in this together, so please do reach out to us if you need to.

Thank you for your patience and support; we are committed to supporting you and you can reach me or any members of staff with any concerns or questions you may have. [Ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:Ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

Stay safe.



Emma Baker

Principal