

Friday 28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Looking back over the term

As this half term draws to a close we are afforded an opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved by our school community. We are proud that our work over a number of years to be a school for our whole community has been recognised by the achievement of the IQM Inclusive School Award, with designation as a Centre of Excellence because of our forward thinking practice. Our focus on supporting students and staff in all aspects of wellbeing have also resulted in the achievement of the School Mental Health Award with Silver Status. Students have been challenged in tutor time to develop their broader knowledge of the world through our Total Recall programme, with prizes awarded each week to those who are able to memorise and recall most successfully. My thanks and congratulations go to our students and staff for all they have achieved.

Student progress

Students have been making excellent academic progress in lessons and enrichment sessions, and I am particularly proud of students in year 10 and year 11 who have been working incredibly hard to rise to the challenge of finalising assessment evidence for teacher assessed grades. We wish our year 11 students a fond farewell on Friday 28 May as they leave Outwood Bishopsgarth and commence the next steps of their journey to future study and successful careers. Details of the Masterclasses for Year 11 students in June, which will support transition to further study and work, will be shared directly with students and families.

Teaching & learning and risk assessment update

We have continued to review our Covid risk assessment on a regular basis and we are now in a position to make adjustments to the way in which we arrange teaching and learning within the academy. From Monday 7 June we will return to the use of normal classrooms around the academy, meaning that students in all year groups will benefit from access to specialist teaching rooms in science, technology and creative arts. This means that students will move with their bubbles around the building more than they currently do, so we have introduced a one way system around the building to maintain social distancing measures as we move from lesson to lesson during the school day. Please be assured that Covid control measures remain in place to ensure the safety of our community: year group bubbles in lessons; year group bubbles at breaktime and at lunchtime; separate entrances and exits for each year group; enhanced cleaning throughout the day. Students

are welcome to continue to wear masks too if they so wish. An updated risk assessment with full details of all control measures in place can be found on our website.

The start of the summer half term

All students should arrive on Monday 7 June at the same time as they have throughout this year and make their way to their existing tutor rooms through their current year group entrances. Students will receive updated timetables and training in the revised safety measures, including the new one way system, before we commence lessons as normal. Students in Year 7 are yet to visit all areas of the school building so we will have an extended tutor time to tour the building so they can then make their way to all lessons independently. Please note that the end of the school day for Year 10 will be 2.30pm from Monday 7 June as they commence final preparations for their last year of GCSE study. Years 7, 8 & 9 will finish lessons at the same time as they have done all year.

Attending school every day is the first step that each of our students should take to ensure they make excellent progress in their studies. Thank you for all that you do to make sure your child arrives promptly to school each day in full uniform and with the correct equipment.

Our final parents' evening of the year, for the parents and carers of students in years 8 and 9, will be on Tuesday 15 June from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. This will be hosted online and further details of how you can make appointments to discuss your child's academic progress with their teachers will be shared at the start of the new half term.

I appreciate that you may have questions about this update, many of which I hope will be answered when we have discussed the details with your child on their return on Monday 7 June. If however you would then like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to make contact via enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com or 01642 586262.

Thank you for your continued support of the Outwood Bishopsgarth community. I wish you and your family a safe and restful half term holiday.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Robinson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Robinson
Head of School