



ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

11th September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

You won't believe how enjoyable it is to get back into the routines of writing to you having had a full week of proper school. On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed not only seeing all the students in lessons but also how quickly they have adapted to our new processes. What has also happened is that by zoning the school, students have quickly developed a very strong identity with their year group, their new year heads, pastoral managers and heads of key stage.

Lessons have been purposeful and it has been good to see students enjoying each other's company at both break times. That in itself seems to have worked well but can I also say that we are constantly evaluating the new measures we put in place and making adaptations where and when we think it's appropriate.

At present we are just getting agreement from OAT regarding the plan in case of closure due to Covid19; it is very detailed looking at everything from tier 1 on Government guidance to tier 4. Once this has been agreed it will be put on our website for you to access. It covers everything from processes and procedures, to blended learning and communications with parents.

Following a review of our procedures, in the best safety interest of our students, we will allow them to now enter the school via either of the front gates. We will of course expect them to then take the quickest route to their individual year group bubble areas.

The system of students wearing PE kits to school has worked well and huge thanks for your support; we are continuing to enforce that students must wear their blazers over the top of their kit. Overall I'm pleased with how the week has gone and although inevitably there are areas that I will be looking to improve, everyone has been incredibly supportive, both staff and students.

Attendance continues to be a priority and as always it's really important that your child is at school. At present Year 10 is by far the strongest attendance year group, hitting over 97% on Tuesday. I can't emphasise enough the importance of this in your child's future. It is my intention to start an in school competition between all year groups so that every single day matters.

Period 5s have been a great success and this is a key part of our catch up plan for students who are taking GCSEs this academic year.

I would like to reiterate that our students can wear face coverings should they wish to, and we have no preference on the colour.

One of the highlights of my weekend is going to be chatting with my boys online. As you'll be well aware they are now in London. One of the many things they have told me is how quiet London is and they themselves have been very careful with who they meet up with in the area where they live. Transport would seem to be very quiet, London Underground is no longer packed and there's a feel that the city has lost a bit of its buzz. Nationally, there's a lot of criticism being directed at the youth as this is where there is a COVID growth but the fact is the vast majority



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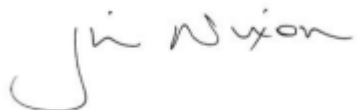
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of them have been very careful and considered. My chats with them online are never quite the same though, as I can't hug them through the screen but it is great to see them and almost inevitably it lasts for a couple of hours. The rest of the time will be spent out walking the dog, doing a little bit of cycling and once again practicing my scales (f sharp minor).

I hope you have a fantastic weekend and make the best of every minute.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Nixon". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned to the right of a large, stylized initial "J" that starts the line.

Jim Nixon
Principal