

8<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

**Welcome back Year 11 from Mr Dorber and Jane.**

I would like to start by saying how excited we are to welcome year 11 back to the Academy after a period that we have all found challenging. Please rest assured that we are committed to supporting all students who have been affected in anyway by the events over the last 6 months. I am extremely proud of what this year group has already achieved in their first four years at Oasis Brislington and I wish them continued success as they continue their learning journey with us in Year 11. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the hard work and effort of parents and students alike during the extended break. Staying motivated to study every day during lockdown cannot have been easy for many of you, and the dedication and hard work you have shown is a great source of pride for your teachers and me. Equally, the difficulties of juggling careers, household duties and home schooling must have been a challenge for all parents and I am extremely grateful for your efforts during this difficult time. I sincerely believe that three positives that have arisen from this current situation have been that:

- 1) Students have become more self-motivated, organised and involved in their studies.
- 2) We as an academy have embraced new technologies that will enhance and accelerate student learning in the future.
- 3) Students are more aware of how their work in lessons can impact GCSE results.

With GCSE's now very much on the horizon I think that these developments will put us in a strong position to achieve the best results the Academy has ever seen. At the time of writing there are no plans from the government about changing the GCSE schedule. Although this may be a daunting prospect, I would like to remind you that as an Academy the work we set for lockdown was a continuation of our curriculum. Therefore, the students who accessed this work will be in a similar position to if they had continued at school. However, for those who have struggled to work there will be many opportunities for them to gain any knowledge that they have missed. We hope that students will start to look at what they can do outside of school to improve their grades. We are encouraging students to "Go one more" and complete one additional piece of study each day. This only needs to be for 10 minutes and can be anything the student chooses. Staff will also be providing resources that can be used and we would appreciate if you could ask your young person what their "one more" was each day.

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As you will undoubtedly be aware, Oasis has gone to great length to modify how we do things in order to reopen safely. To reduce the risk of transmission across the whole academy each year group will be part of a 'bubble' that stays together throughout the day. Year 11's 'bubble' is in the Red block (previously occupied by Design Technology and Humanities) and the majority of their learning will be taking place there. In addition, Year 11 students get separate break times and a separate entrance and exit. This will reduce the number of contacts each student has with other year groups and reduce the chance of spreading infection.

Hygiene is an essential part of a safe return, and students and staff will be required to wash/sanitize their hands thoroughly upon arrival at school, before and after eating, and between each lesson. Hygiene will be everyone's responsibility, including all students, to ensure we make the Academy as safe as we possibly can. In addition, the wearing of masks is mandatory for students and staff as they move around the Academy. Students do not need to wear their masks during lessons but teaching staff will continue to wear visors in the classroom environment with the addition of a mask if they are circulating the room.

I know that despite our best efforts many of you will still have concerns and questions as we move through this first term and so I ask that you please forward them to ([james.dorber@oasisbrislington.org](mailto:james.dorber@oasisbrislington.org)) or ([jane.graydon@oasisbrislington.org](mailto:jane.graydon@oasisbrislington.org)) in the first instance and we will endeavour to get back to you asap.

Thanks, as always for your support.

Yours faithfully,

James Dorber  
**SPL for Year 11**