



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

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30th April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know we have finished our fourth week in lockdown and our students and staff are responding very well to the new processes and procedures. I am continuously impressed by the hard work and dedication shown by staff at our school to support the national effort in this time of crisis. I am equally impressed by the way our students have responded, not only the few who are coming into school, but by the majority who are working as best they can at home. This is due, in large part to the support you're giving your children. We know that many are finding the situation difficult, particularly missing the social contact with their friends and I am very pleased with the way our school is keeping in contact with students and families. Please remember we are here for you and if there are difficulties that we can help with our pastoral team are always at the end of a phone or email.

We love to see and hear about what students have been doing at home, whether this is showcasing excellent examples of school work, acts of kindness within the local community or DIY projects with the family. Please continue to send any photographs in so that we do not lose touch: it is wonderful to see our students developing all of their OBHS habits outside the classroom.

Laptops

I am delighted to inform parents that due to forward planning we have been able to give out nearly one hundred laptops to students, this was before the government launched the national laptop scheme, and is helping those students who have limited access to technology to ensure that no students from Old Buckenham High School are left behind during the school closure.

Curriculum

We are in the process of following advice around Control Assessed Grades for Year 11 students. There are very clear procedures in place and the process is being undertaken with rigor. It is important to note that we cannot give out any information to parents or students about likely outcomes, or are we able to enter a discussion with parents about the process.

I am very pleased to inform parents that Year 9 will start an introduction to their GCSEs/Technical Awards on Monday 4th May: a letter to Year 9 parents is being sent with full details. In addition, we are introducing a new, broader curriculum based on our Habits and form time activities will also restart. I do hope you have managed to



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watch our 'on-line' assemblies which are posted, with other important information on our website.

I discussed with some Year 9 parents about offering an additional music option outside of the planned curriculum slots, and I am happy to inform you that this will be possible. If your son/daughter is keen to commit to studying for a music qualification in addition to their options please contact Mr Jay for further details. Please note that there will be limited places on this course.

Staffing

Mrs Coaker starts her maternity leave on Monday and we wish her well. Miss Greenacre left at Easter, as did Ms Tarrant. I am very pleased that Miss Cooper is starting as Head of English and Mrs Read as Food Technology teacher very shortly.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to all involved in supporting our students and school during this time of national emergency. We have been overwhelmed by messages of support, it makes our work feel very worthwhile. The school is planning to close on Friday 8th May to allow staff and families a well-earned rest and to commemorate VE Day.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell
Headteacher



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