

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update

We are fast approaching the end of the second week of the summer term in lockdown. I remain very grateful to you, your family and our students for managing the 'Stay Home' approach to this pandemic. I appreciate that it is not easy, and these are unsettling times for some. If you or a member of your family is a health, care or key worker then I hope you will accept my thanks on behalf of the Oriel community. We will continue to set work for our students through our platform Show My Home Work for students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12. There is some virtual teaching taking place in addition to using SMHW, but as I have said previously this will vary between subjects and teachers due to their own personal circumstances and I am grateful to you for understanding this situation.

We are also keen to support our students in Year 11 and Year 13 in terms of helping with their preparations for their next stage. We have entered into a partnership with Eton College for the benefit of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Through our partnership, Year 13 students can participate in an interactive programme called 'Making an Impact'. This programme helps our students to ensure that they give a strong impression to whomever they are engaging with as part of their transition to their next stage whether that be university, an apprenticeship or work.

For our Year 11 students who have applied to our Sixth Form we have enrolled them onto a programme with Eton College that will enhance and develop their research skills. Any Year 11 student that has not applied to our Sixth Form can also participate in this programme by contacting our Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Denman, through her email:

cdenman@oriel.w-sussex.sch.uk

We are also keen to help all our students with their physical well-being and would encourage them to take part in the Virtual Sussex Schools Games 2020 competition supported by Specsavers. As a school community we make no apologies for being fiercely competitive and so we would like our students to excel in this endeavour where possible. Please find attached with this letter to you the details of the competition and how to enter it. I hope that you will encourage our students to take part in this competition. The competition will run for 11 weeks and at the end of the first week we were the lead school in Crawley and we are very keen to keep that position!

I am very grateful to our staff for the work that they are doing to keep the learning active and positive for our students. I am also very grateful to you for encouraging and supporting our students with their learning. We cannot replicate the school experience, but we can try to mitigate against the disruption to the learning and well-being of our students in these unusual times.

I hope that you and your loved ones stay safe and well.

With my best wishes to you and your family

Philip Stack
Headteacher