



Update on remote learning

Families, thank you for all of your commitment at home in supporting your children to learn. We also really appreciate the feedback that you have given us. We are pleased at the very positive response, but have made changes based on feedback.

A sample of comments from some of you:

"The low stakes quiz and exit tickets are a very good way of checking that they are engaging and paying attention to the lessons."

"Having a weekly calls and emails from the school with my child's feedback is really positive."

"I think you're doing a great job considering the situation we're in!"

Please read the actions we've taken to improve the provision even further.

You asked, we answered:

More 'live face to face':

- Year 10 live lessons.

- Two assemblies per week.
- Live Tutor time session every Friday.

More work for students

- One more hour of lessons per day.
- Daily PE, more history and geography.

More extension/challenge for my child:

- Extension and extra-curricular work on the website from English and maths.
- Art workshops.
- Coding club.
- Extended Project.
- Character Education tasks and challenges.

We would prefer to have our school doors open, but would welcome further feedback to continue to provide the best 'virtual' alternative possible.

*Mr Schmaus,
Assistant Headteacher*



A message from the Head

On 3rd January I couldn't sleep with the excitement of becoming your Headteacher the next day. On the 4th, staff had a great Inset day and then went home to an announcement from the Prime Minister that we would enter a lockdown the next day. I was confident we could cope with this. In fact, we could win this. After your safety, our top priority is to provide you with a great education. This is more challenging remotely, but staff and pupils have achieved so much during this time. Each week, I ask staff for the names of pupils who have been brilliant. I have written to 166 pupils to congratulate them on their wonderful work. 17 pupils have received gift bags of treats as a reward. You have learnt new material and revised what you know, in abundance. Well done to you all.

I contacted a parent of a pupil in Year 7, asking for her feedback on home learning. She said her son had needed assistance in the earlier part of this half term but had grown to be more independent. Remarkably, he has also managed to be supportive to her at home too, often without even being asked.

Last Saturday, it felt like spring was coming. Sunday, however, brought snow and I was back to thermals and de-icer, but our optimism remains. The snow storm will pass, spring will come. In the meantime, we will continue to provide excellent remote learning for you and support your wellbeing whilst we wait for guidance on your safe return.

Have a great half term. Walk often and read lots!

Ms Moran, Headteacher

Students' voice on our lockdown provision

"Live lessons can be hard sometimes, however, we have amazing teachers to really help us through, during this difficult time. The teacher's perseverance along with our hard work have really increased our level of understanding in subjects. It is easy to stay focused on the work and not get distracted due to the highly engaging lessons." – Resika

"Live lessons with our teachers are beneficial as we can ask questions and get an instant response." – Chloe

"Coming into and doing my school work at school has had an overall positive impact on me. By separating leisure time and learning, it has helped me to focus and maintain my productive attitude and mind-set towards school, and has also motivated me to do my work on time."

"In my opinion, doing live video calls is really good because it makes sure the students do the work to the standard the school expects. If students fail to do so, the school takes the necessary action in making sure they are on track. Furthermore, the online video calls are similar to being in the classroom and there is the one-to-one student to teacher element in place which is an essential element of education." – Sofia



Fun Fridays at Orchard Park

We have had another busy half term at Orchard Park and even lockdown couldn't stop us having fun! We've had many online challenges to keep the students engaged and entertained.

The Fun Friday email account was filled with some wonderful winter photography entries and art work, but we think our favourite challenge was probably our 'tap to tidy' task which got students taking before and after pictures of something messy. Our favourite was Cody's before and after shot. What a difference!

The fun didn't stop for our staff either, who were keen to take the challenges to the next level. Ms Smyrk and Mr Hubbard went head to head in a doughnut eating competition and Miss Walsh and Mr Artherton competed for who could do the most keepee uppies in one minute. This last week, Miss Goodwin and Miss Hansford will be seeing who can get the most marshmallows in their mouths! (Follow our social media channels – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to see the videos.) The students have loved voting on who they think will be the winner, and so far their voting has been spot on.

Our key worker students have enjoyed Taskmaster sessions and have had real fun taking on strange tasks just for my amusement. I was very impressed with our 'who can build the tallest tower just using paper and Sellotape!' They also found out some very interesting facts about said equipment when they took part in the Heads versus Tails quiz about... Sellotape and paper!

We are all ready for a lovely relaxing half term, but the fun will continue as soon as we return. Watch out for our end of term staff video too.

Ms Ruby, Director of Fun

Year 7 AYL update

It has been so encouraging to see and hear about Year 7 working extremely hard during lockdown. I know it has been difficult, but the students have shown determination and perseverance throughout the last few weeks. It was so lovely to see so many students attend the Year 7 assembly this week and I enjoyed being able to acknowledge so many students for their outstanding efforts. I am so proud of all of the students, particularly those that completed 100% of their Testing for Understanding tasks last week: Judith, Makai, Archie, Rory, Summer, Bryan, Charlie S, Pavi, Mahmood, Marco, Tyler, Antonia, Isitha, Krystal, Sean, Dylan, Kelton, Rachael, Cheyanne, Georgia, Seiyar, Maisie, Joseph, Malik, Kristijonas, Leila, Ethan, Ubaydah, Emmanuella, Vinsard, Latiece, Lynn and Chloe.

Well done to Isitha for winning the Year 7 geography 'Out of this World' competition with a fantastic poster on the Maldives. A big well done, also, to Divinelyn, Krystal and Scarlett for scoring the highest points on Sparx Maths last week.

Students should ensure they are using their school Google login account to complete all of the daily online tasks. On Friday, they should make sure they go into each of their subject classrooms on Google Classroom and complete the task set by their teacher (not all of these tasks appear on the To Do list). Year 7 can continue with Sparx, but any tasks that are set are optional. Please note, that students will need to use their school Google login to attend assemblies and tutor time on Wednesdays and Fridays. Invites should appear on their Google calendar, but we will also ensure that the links are available on the Year 7 Google Classroom stream.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's home learning.

Miss Goodwin, Year 7 Academic Year Lead

Year 8 AYL update

Year 8 this term have done extremely well in working from home. They have shown great dedication to their workload and commitment to keeping up with work that is set for them. They should all be very proud of themselves. It's great to see them joining in with the live assemblies we now have each Wednesday. During our assembly we have a weekly shout out to students that go above and beyond and have 100% attendance for completing work set for that week. These students most recently are:

Isabella, Marina, Rebecca, Patrick, Regan, Rehan, Andra, Angel, Charlie, Feranmi, Jahmal, Ben, Kaylee, Khalil, Kofi, Nusaybah, Saimma, Kairos, Richard, Annalie, George, Kevahney, Riana, Kamari, Daishon, Kemari, Alketa, Fatima, Kasia, Irbaz, Nahiem, Amrutha, Anastasia M, J'Adore, Favour, Plamena, Zakaria, Holly, Alex, Lacey, Harvey, Jayden, Jonathan, Kai'Yonna, Luke - Ashley, Nathan, Abigail C, Abigail K, Alicia, Amelia, Hollie, Josephine, Justin and Manoah.

Miss Walsh, Year 8 Academic Year Lead

Year 9 AYL update

This term has been the most challenging for Year 9, but this is definitely the term where the students have shown the most maturity, resilience and understanding. We have taken on new learning opportunities using our remote learning videos and tasks, and we have been meeting virtually as a group every week to discuss interesting things we have accomplished and taken part in.

Our Physical Character Education Ambassador, Chloe, has produced a lockdown fitness presentation for all of us to use and enjoy – thank you Chloe. We have also had some great examples of work, and we have given a shout out to a number of our students for how hard they have been working during lockdown – a special well done to Sammy, Cody, Hope and Chloe.

Next term will focus on choosing our GCSE options, so we prepared for this by having our first CrowdCast to explore the importance of picking wisely and understanding what the process will look like over the next couple of months. We are excited for this next step in our Orchard Park journey.

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Year 9 AYL update

The cohort have been taking part in our Character Education activities, particularly the *TikToks* put on by PE. We look forward to spending our half term having a well earned rest, but perhaps giving some of the 'At Home' science experiments a go, inspired by Miss Friday.

I want to say a massive thank you to all the teachers and other staff that have worked so hard to make sure Year 9 are learning well at home, as well as checking in on them on a weekly basis to make sure they are safe and happy.

Miss Ferigan, Year 9 Academic Year Lead

Year 10 AYL update

This certainly has been a year of adapting for students across the country. As I write this, Year 10s at Orchard Park are in their first week of adapting once again to a brand new way of learning, live lessons. I know from having spoken to many parents, students and teachers that there has been a real excitement around the start of live teaching and learning for Year 10 and so far the first week has certainly lived up to expectations.

Attendance rates to live lessons across the year group have been impressive from day one, and those students who have experienced technical difficulties have been persistent in solving these problems and joining their peers in live learning. Lots of teachers have reached out to tell me how excellent their classes have been during their lessons, and I have dropped into lessons myself and seen what a fantastic job teachers have been doing to deliver outstanding lessons straight from their living rooms.

Year 10 students have also experienced another change this term. We are delighted to have Miss Turner joining the year group as Shadow AYL. Even remotely, Miss Turner has been getting stuck straight into the job; speaking at assemblies, calling home to students and being a huge support in getting Year 10 live lessons up and running.

From both Miss Turner and myself, we are loving seeing Year 10's successes online, but cannot wait until we can get back into school and see the year group thrive in person.

Mr Shah, Year 10 Academic Year Lead

Year 11 AYL update

Despite the difficult situation we are all facing, the Year 11 students have been brilliant, their attitude to live lessons and dedication to their studies has been nothing short of amazing.

Although the main focus will always be about learning, I feel it is vital that we are also looking at the well being of Year 11. This term we launched the Boredom Buster challenges to try and give the students a variety of tasks that can be done in their leisure time, not related to school. This has gone down well with both parents and students, with both taking part in various activities this term, including family walks, cooking meals, phone calls to family members and bike rides. Thanks for your support.

Well done to Victory, Noami and Tafari, who have secured work experience placements this term – a great effort within a pandemic.

Year 11 have been very busy applying for colleges this term. Consequently, I have completed over 400 references so far for students. It's great to see so many students taking their post-16 education seriously and with our careers advisor meetings, all students are in a very strong place for the future in September.

Mr Atherton, Year 11 Academic Year Lead

Year 11 exceed expectations

To all Year 11 students - we really are so proud of you. Mr Schmauss, Ms Ongley and I met on a hastily arranged video call on New Year's Day following the announcement that schools would not return in the first two weeks of January.

As we worked through the various logistical challenges of moving to live online lessons, we couldn't have envisaged just how positive that move could be. That is, of course, down to the hard work that your teachers have put into planning and teaching fantastic lessons. But it is also down to you.

We knew that our Year 11s would work hard; we had seen how seriously they took their mock exams in November and knew that they wanted as close to normal school life as possible. But they have exceeded even our highest of expectations.

Attendance at lessons has been excellent, engagement in those lessons equally impressive and behaviour throughout exemplary. This has given teachers the opportunity to experiment with greater student participation, inviting students to answer questions and using the chat function as a whole class mini white board. Most importantly, this has served to improve the quality of education, enhance the learning experience and give us the confidence to extend live teaching to Year 10.

I asked a number of students this week what they thought of online lessons and was delighted to get back a number of responses that described them as 'interactive and engaging', 'really helpful', or simply 'great'. One response stood out though, from a student who replied, honestly:

"I'd rather be at school. I do struggle to focus at times, but always do my best."

I know we'd all rather be at school, and hopefully we will be very soon. We know there will be challenges ahead, but all we ask is you do your very best – that will always be good enough.

Mr Clarke, Assistant Headteacher

Celebration Gallery

Has your child produced some spectacular work? Please take a photo and send it in to vongley@orchardparkhigh.net so we can display it in our gallery on the website.

OPHS Extended Project – worth 100 CE points

Why do the EP?

The Extended Project (EP) is an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate your project management skills.

You can tailor your project to fit your individual needs, choices and aspirations. You will select a topic that you have expertise or interest in and then work to create a project in a medium that best highlights your strengths.

The project must be an opportunity to develop and improve your own learning and performance as critical, reflective and independent students.

The outcome of the project can be a design, performance, report, essay or artefact.

Examples of an EP:

- Write and perform a song.
- Design and make an item of clothing.
- Plan and choreograph a dance.
- Plan and create a stop motion animation.

Ideas for your project title

- Are gendered toys harming childhood development?
- Could blind interviews eliminate bias?
- How do you make the perfect soufflé?
- Have teenagers always been stereotyped?
- What is beauty in mathematics?
- Is the UK government capable of responding to the climate emergency?
- To what extent has social media caused political instability in Europe?
- In what ways could we better prevent the outbreak of epidemics such as the Coronavirus?
- What sociological differences are there between rural and urban locations in the UK?
- Can you design and create a skirt that is both durable and fashionable?
- Should sports be compulsory at secondary school?
- Write an essay on the impact of climate change and ways we could tackle this in school.
- Create a presentation based on an area of your own expertise.
- Make a short film.
- Plan and present a three course meal.
- How can we tackle perfectionism and fear of failure in students?
- What is the holocaust's relationship with literature?
- Is all graffiti a form of art?
- Is learning a language cultural appropriation?
- How can we build environmentally-friendly housing in LEDCs?
- Build your own model boat.
- What new jobs will AI create in the next ten years?
- Should we be allowed to cuddle babies if they can't give verbal consent?
- Write and perform a song about your cultural identity.
- Should a world leader ever be banned from a social media platform?
- Should we ban face-altering apps?
- Design a system to improve recycling at Orchard Park.

Jack Petchey Award winners...

Huge congratulations to Regan, Avangelina, Diana, Yusuf, Connor, Sophie, Abi, Cody and Sofiat who all received their Jack Petchey medals in the Croydon Virtual Awards evening this month. Congratulations also go to the fabulous Mrs Ruby who was given the leaders award for all of her work as our director of fun.

Join in the Orchard Park Monologue Festival

To take part, students can perform either an existing or a self written monologue. Students will be awarded either a bronze, silver or gold medal, depending on their score, and will also receive Character Education points.

Please email your entry to Mrs Ruby (cruby@orchardparkhigh.net) by Friday 19th March at 3.00pm.

Ms Ongley,
Associate Assistant Headteacher
and Head of Performing Arts

TERM DATES

Spring term: Monday 4th January to Thursday 1st April

February half term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February

Good Friday bank holiday: Friday 2nd April

Easter holiday: Monday 5th April to Friday 16th April

Summer term: Monday 19th April to Friday 23rd July

All year groups return: Monday 19th April

May bank holiday: Monday 3rd May

May half term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

One more INSET to be confirmed.



Proud to be
part of the



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