

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Orchard Mead Academy**

Keyham Lane West | Hamilton  
Leicester | LE5 1RT

t. 0116 241 3371

e. [office@orchard-tmet.uk](mailto:office@orchard-tmet.uk)

w. [www.orchard-tmet.uk](http://www.orchard-tmet.uk)

**Executive Principal:** Ms R Hindocha

**Principal:** Mr I Patel

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and in good health. Following on from my newsletters sent prior to school reopening, I would like to say a big thank you to all stakeholders for a great transition back in to school last week. Teachers have gone through our systems of control and students have done really well to embed these routines in to their daily practice around the school. Well done to all!

### **Whole School Priorities**

As parents, it is important that you are aware of our key school priorities for this academic year.

1. **Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Attendance:** During this unprecedented time, we plan to minimise risk and work effectively to ensure staff and students are safe and protected from harm. In addition, attendance and punctuality to school is vital for our young people to receive the very best education.
2. **Behaviour and Attitudes:** Before the summer break, we sent out details of our new behaviour policy and this is also available on our website. We want our students to Work Hard, Be Kind and Be Responsible to ensure they achieve well, develop great character and resilience and are ready for their next steps beyond Orchard Mead Academy. We want our students to flourish and therefore it's important all stakeholders buy in to and follow the school policy.
3. **Blended Learning and Remote Education:** Although a good proportion of students continued with their learning during closure, some of our students for various reasons did not engage with all the tasks set. I understand some of the difficulties families had but it is a priority moving forward that students engage with home learning tasks (including weekly homework) and are ready to continue their learning in the event of another school closure.

### **2020/21 School Term Dates Update**

Please find attached our updated school term dates for 2020/21. The document is updated with our adjusted dates from re-opening last week and also a change from inset day to having a normal school day for all staff and students on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Please bear this in mind when planning any breaks over the Christmas period.

### **Attendance Reminder**

It is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development. A reminder that school attendance is mandatory again (unless a statutory reason applies). Therefore, we will continue to maintain an up to date record of attendance and will follow up on absences and punctuality concerns. Where necessary, we will be required to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local and national guidance. On a positive note, our school attendance figures were encouraging last week and our staff are working with families of absentees to support the return to school of children.

Where a student is unable to attend school because they are complying with clinical and/or public health advice such as isolation, we will immediately provide access to remote education and these absences will not be penalised. More information will be provided when you call through and tasks will be made immediately available via our website followed by classcharts where subject teachers will provide the learning. It is essential that your child engages with all work provided if they are fit and healthy to do so.

If you have any concerns, feedback or suggestions, please feel free to email [info@orchard-tmet.uk](mailto:info@orchard-tmet.uk)

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Imtiaz Patel', written over a horizontal line.

Imtiaz Patel  
Principal