



Orchard Mead Academy

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25 November 2020

Principal: Mr I Patel

Dear Parents / Carers,

With the ongoing national changes and challenges posed by Covid 19, I am writing to inform you of our expectations for your son/daughter completing their school work should they be required to complete a period of self-isolation or in the event of a year group closure in school. My aim is to explain why we have high expectations of students engaging in purposeful learning activities inside and outside the academy.

The teachers at Orchard Mead have carefully sequenced the curriculum that students follow. This allows students to build their knowledge and understanding in a careful and considered way. The present situation regarding Covid19 threatens to disrupt that sequence as students face the real possibility of multiple periods of self-isolation. This could lead to gaps in their knowledge developing so our aim is to ensure the work that students complete at home continues in the same way it would if they were at school.

As a result, we expect students who are self isolating at home to:

- **Follow their usual daily timetable.** This creates the sense of a normal routine and rhythm to the school day and this sense of routine has a positive impact on motivation.
- **Use ClassCharts to identify what learning tasks have been set** during isolation. All work set by teachers will be set in this location and each of the learning activities, instructions and resources will be found here.
- **Participate in any live lessons.** With whole year groups isolating, the capacity we have to deliver live lessons increases. I am pleased to report we have installed webcams in each classroom which will allow teachers to deliver the lesson as normal and have isolating students participate at home.
- **Email the teacher if there is anything you are unsure about.** The teacher who set the work is the person best placed to support your son or daughter and they can use their Microsoft Outlook email account to find their teachers email address and speak directly to them.
- **Upload the work they complete at home to ClassCharts.** This is so the teachers can see that your son/daughter has positively engaged with the work set. Participation in a live lesson and return of work after each lesson will result in a positive behaviour point. Conversely a negative behaviour point is applied for work not submitted. This information allows us to create a leaderboard of engagement during any periods of isolation.

There are several instructional videos on the school website to support your son/daughter if you are experiencing any issues with ClassCharts <https://www.orchard-tmet.uk/using-classcharts-to-support-your-home-learning-overall/>

We are keen to remove potential barriers that mean students are unable to meet our expectations. We know that success breeds success, so if devices or internet access is a barrier, please contact the school as we have resources which can be loaned for periods of isolation if required. While times are certainly challenging, we remain committed to providing the best educational experience we can for all our students.

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Imtiaz Patel
Principal