



Monday 8th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We wanted to get in touch with you to update you about our progress with remote learning because we have tweaked things and are updating some of our practice to keep improving. We really do appreciate your support and all of the work you are putting in to keep home learning going.

We have created two short surveys to gather as much information as we can about your experiences and those of your child(ren) (we will email students their link directly and also share this on MS Teams) and have included the survey we would appreciate you completing here: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zz3XjXy17EC3-HVbUS2fe0P6-oLJpaRFg0ERnYvXIOIUMjdOTUJZMjVWSFRVQUhTVFEwUVhGM0NQRY4u> Thank you for taking the time to complete it.

As part of the improvements we have looked to make, your child(ren) will have noticed that the areas that their recorded lessons are stored in each day are now clearly labelled with titles such as 'Year 8 Science Recorded' to avoid confusion. We just wanted to remind students that these lessons are not optional and are designed to be completed at their own pace, accounting for breaks from screen time. It is really important that the work from these lessons is shared with the appropriate member of staff so that we can provide feedback too.

Lesson Information

Live lessons are a new phenomena and something which we know some students are finding quite daunting. It is completely understandable that we all feel self conscious when speaking/typing into a device with no real sense of the interaction we are used to in a classroom. Our interactions with each other are what we miss the most and struggle to replicate through technology. We don't like to be beaten though! So, we have introduced the use of breakout rooms in live lessons. This creates a space separate to the main lesson where small groups of students can work with a LSA/the class teacher and have a discussion about the work and we hope this removes some of the anxiety the whole class setting can create and recreates some of the interaction we are used to in the classroom. This is a work in progress so we ask you to bear with us as we develop our use of this.

We have launched the use of OneNote through MS Teams and this appears as a Class Notebook for students for each of their classes. We have been piloting this across different subjects and groups and are now in the process of rolling this out to all students. This approach means that everything students need for each live lesson is stored in one place and the teacher can see each student as they write/complete tasks, in real time.

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 OasisWintringham

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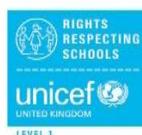
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It also allows students to record audio or upload photos if they are writing/drawing and means this is all stored in chronological order. As with all new technological changes, it can seem daunting at first and so we have made a series of videos to support students in finding their Notebooks and also understanding how to upload their audio/photos. These can be found on our website here: [iPad Class Notebook - Oasis Academy Wintringham](#) This means we can begin replicating our feedback procedures virtually and will improve the quality of this which is something we are really keen to develop.

Accessibility Support

We are also conscious that students who require SEND support may not be aware of additional functions on the iPad which are available to support them and so we have added an Accessibility area to our website. This area offers guides on how to change screen colour/font size as well as how to have the iPad read to and write for the user. They can be found in this area of our website: [Accessibility - Oasis Academy Wintringham](#)

Mental Health Support

As lockdown progresses, we are increasingly conscious of the mental health and wellbeing of our students which is why we have changed how we offer our assembly and SMSC programme. These changes mean that we can guarantee that students in all years are experiencing support around issues such as mental health and anxiety, as well as the broader curriculum outside academic subjects. The lessons taken for each of these activities will vary each week and staff are made aware well in advance so that they can accommodate this and adapt their planning.

This is also the reason that we have changed the contact tutors have with their tutees. Thus far, they have been contacted via MS Teams or the telephone on an individual basis and whilst this has worked well we know our students miss their friends. Consequently, we have changed this system and asked tutors to meet their tutees in groups of up to 9 so that they are all able to turn on their microphones/cameras and have a conversation. These sessions will take place once per week and sit outside live lesson times and last for 10/15minutes. Students will receive an invite via their tutor in the same way they would to a lesson so please encourage them to attend.

We all miss being at school but we are incredibly proud of the resilience our students and staff have shown in creating our virtual school and ensuring that learning keeps moving. This would not have been possible without your efforts and the commitment you have shown as parents/carers to home learning; thank you, once again. This is an incredible team effort and we are all #proudtobeOAW

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Revell
Associate Principal
Oasis Academy Wintringham