

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update – 27th March 2020

Thank you for your continued support of the academy in what are extremely challenging times for us all. We are very grateful for all of the positive messages and offers of help we have received.

Although schools are now closed nationally to almost all Students until further notice, those eligible for school-based provision, as outlined in the [DfE guidance for schools](#), will continue to access this service until further notice.

We are currently working on plans for the Easter holiday break and the Summer Term. More news on these developments is to follow. If you have any queries, please email enquiries@theoxfordacademy.org.uk as usual and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

We appreciate that school closure will be challenging in many ways and we will use the website as our primary means of supporting and updating families throughout the closure.

Covid-19 Update - Please see our previous communication regarding the Covid-19 situation on our website and Letters page.

Home Learning - Information on home learning during school closure is available on our website:

<http://www.theoxfordacademy.org.uk/Home-Learning>

The following additional resources are available also, links below:

Audible

For as long as schools are closed all audio book streaming on Audible is completely free: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> all stories can be streamed on either laptops, computers or personal devices.

We recommend *The Mystery of Alice* by Lee Bacon for your first read:

Thirteen-year-old Emily Poe has been given the opportunity of a lifetime: A chance to attend the exclusive Audyn School in Manhattan. But to win the scholarship, she has to pass a test like nothing she's ever experienced before: A nearly bare room, a set of strange clues, a locked door. And a mysterious organization - the Leopold Foundation - that's watching her every move.

TED Talks

For example: we have seen lots of famous landmarks around the world such as the Leaning Tower of Pisa deserted due to many countries being on lockdown. In 1990, the Italian government enlisted top engineers to stabilise Pisa's famous Leaning Tower. There had been many attempts during its 800 year history, but computer models revealed the urgency of their situation. The tower would topple if it reached an angle of 5.44 degrees - and it was currently leaning at 5.5. What gives the tower its infamous tilt? Use this link to find out more: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/why-doesn-t-the-leaning-tower-of-pisa-fall-over-alex-gendler#digdeeper>

The Body Coach

Joe Wicks, also known as The Body Coach, is presenting a daily PE lesson for children (and adults!). These are live on his YouTube channel every day at 9am: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1>

Oti Mabuse – Dance Class

Oti Mabuse (Strictly Come Dancing's professional dancer) will be theming her kids dance classes all this week. Friday will be *The Jungle Book*, Saturday *Aladdin* and Sunday *High School Musical*.

Oti is also offering family friendly dance classes at 7:30pm, no previous experience necessary!

You can find her live classes here:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OtiMabuse/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/otimabuse/>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC58aowNEXHHnfIR_5YTtP4g



Free School Meals - we are still awaiting details of the National Voucher scheme for FSM

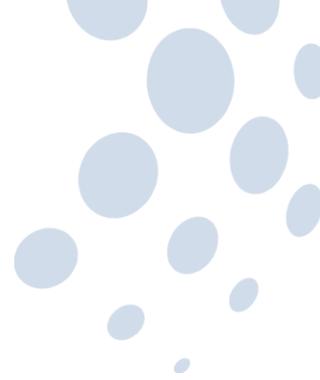
Curriculum Update - We are making a change to our curriculum for the academic year starting September 2020. Students in Y7, Y8 and Y9 will follow our Key Stage Three curriculum, with Students in Y10 and Y11 then following our Key Stage Four curriculum. This means that our current Y8 Students will decide on their GCSE options towards the end of Y9, in preparation for starting in September 2021. Students will choose three options and there will be a detailed and supportive process to support both the Students and parents to make the best choices. Leaders are working hard to ensure that our curriculum supports this change, as well as ensuring that no pupil will be disadvantaged due to our school closure.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of our curriculum, please get in touch:
abi.banks@theoxfordacademy.org.uk Deputy Headteacher, Curriculum.

Sixth Form - developments, advice and recruitment information is contained in two letters available on our website. Please contact Mr O'Hanlon, Head of Sixth if you have any queries.

Parent Forum – following the latest meeting in February the forum has developed a 'You said, We Did' format for keeping in touch. Please bear with us if any of the information below has been superseded or delayed by recent events.

You Said	We Did
<p><u>Homework</u> You would like to see homework improved and the issues with the on-line Show My Homework resolved over the term.</p>	<p>Following the recent INSET Day focused on learning, a revised approach to homework based on knowledge and follow up in class has been devised for roll out this term. The technical issues regarding the Show My Homework log-ins are being investigated by the provider delivering the service.</p>



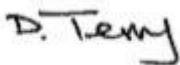
<p><u>Communications between between staff and students / parents</u> You would like to see information about key staff contacts communicated clearly so that students and parents know who to contact.</p>	<p>Key contacts web page to be introduced and a new telephone system introduced to enable parents and carers to leave voicemail contacts. Staff will aim to respond to you within 48 hours.</p>
<p><u>Communication</u> You would like to see a better system of call backs to parents either via the office or directly from staff key contacts. You would like to be able to e-mail subject teachers if you have anything you need to discuss with them.</p>	<p>A new telephone system has been installed over half term, which enables voicemails to be left and responded to. Key contact list for emails introduced to ensure swifter response.</p>
<p><u>Information</u> You would like more reports and information on students throughout the year.</p>	<p>The school website calendar is being developed and will show details of activities, events, meeting dates and school holidays an academic year in advance (where available).</p>
<p><u>Extra-curricular</u> You would like more information on extra-curricular activities – ie where and when.</p>	<p>Activities will be published in newsletters. Copies of the timetable are always available in reception and on our website.</p>



<p><u>Support</u></p> <p>You would like more support to best help your child with their homework and would like to know more about revision help.</p>	<p>We had planned to hold parental engagement evenings for the parents of each year group in the Spring and Summer Terms giving advice on how best to do this. Updates on revision materials are emailed to parents, especially in GCSE years.</p>
<p><u>Exams</u></p> <p>You would like more details about exams.</p>	<p>Going forward, exam information and timetables will be on the website. However, we will communicate national information on the government's proposals for public examinations when available.</p>
<p><u>FAQs</u></p> <p>Parents would like to see a FAQ section as a result of the forum and forums going forward.</p>	<p>A FAQ section is being prepared for the website.</p>

Please take good care of yourselves in the meantime until things return to normal.

Yours faithfully



David Terry
Interim Headteacher