



### **Saying good bye to Year 11**

Back in March I was in my office eagerly awaiting the announcement from Boris Johnson about a possible short closure of schools. When the information got shared I sat in silence and gathered my thoughts for a moment, because it all felt very surreal, even though we had been expecting it.

My initial concern was for Year 11: despite all the speculation around exams, it definitely shocked me when they were actually cancelled. They are a fantastic year group and I was worried about the impact it would have on them. I wanted to make sure they had the right level of support around them to help them cope with the news. I saw all Year 11 the morning after the announcement for an assembly. There was an eerie silence in the room. It was incredibly clear how upset and shocked Year 11 students were that their exams were cancelled. It wasn't elation, it was a real shock to them. Some students were in tears. We ensured students had the time to say goodbye to each other. We gave them all a book they could use so that teachers and students could write their farewell wishes. I am very proud of Year 11 and how they reacted to the news. We are still planning to have some kind of Year 11 celebration and will invite all the students back for this when guidance says we can.

### **The lockdown**

Then the senior team and I started to focus on what needed to be put in place for the rest of the Academy. The landscape changed overnight, with creation of work packs to provide work to all students leading up to Easter. We also kept the Academy open to children of keyworkers and those from more vulnerable families. The Free School Meal voucher system took a long time to set up so hampers were personally delivered to families.

After Easter, all work was set on a programme called Insight. Parents were sent a report about their child's engagement in their online learning. Personal Tutors also have been making fortnightly telephone calls to all of our students and their families to check on their welfare.

Children of keyworkers and vulnerable families continued to attend the Academy. I am extremely grateful to Ormiston South Parade for helping to educate our children during the Easter and May breaks. At Ormiston Maritime, during term time, teachers and teaching assistants have been working in shifts to supervise and teach the children at the Academy. As well as their on-line learning through Insight, students have completed work on My Maths, Timetables Rockstars, GCSEPod, Seneca and SAM Learning. Students have had weekly opportunities to cook in our food room and help with our new vegetable garden. Students also had a pyjama day and brought in food for the local food bank.

June saw the return of some face to face teaching of Year 10 students. These students have attended lessons in English, maths and Science. The turn-out to these lesson has been extremely high. The students have been amazing in terms of behaviour and engagement. It has been so pleasing to teach these students myself, and teachers who have taught Year 10 have all commented on how much learning the students have retained over the lockdown.

Microsoft Teams suddenly took centre stage. Staff have had many professional development sessions using Teams. This has then led to staff training on how Teams can be used in the future to offer on-line live lessons. I am very proud of how quickly staff at Ormiston Maritime Academy (OMA) adapted their practice and got up to speed with new platforms to be able to make resources available online and printed for those most in need.

### **Staffing changes**

As we draw to the end of the Academic year I have some goodbyes to share with you. We say goodbye to Mr Perry (Geography). He has been a fantastic teacher and we wish him all the best at his new school in London. Miss Marsh (Spanish) also leaves us. She is an inspirational Spanish teacher and we wish her all the luck in her new role in Manchester. Miss Jugg (French) is also leaving OMA to take on a new Head of Department role in Lincolnshire. She will be fabulous in this role. I know Miss Jugg plans to continue to work with OMA and have some joint overseas trips when these are allowed once more. Mrs Hodges (Music) retires this summer. Mrs Hodges has been with OMA a number of years and we thank her for everything she has given to the students and the Academy community. Miss Green (Art) will also be leaving to a new role in Caistor. A big thank you to Miss Green for all the Art work she has taught our young people. Mr Sutton is moving to a pastoral post in another school and we thank him for the support that he has offered to our students as Head of Year. Finally we say goodbye to Mr Shanks (Assistant Principal). He is moving to a new Regional role within OAT so I am sure both staff and students will still see Mr Shanks regularly. Mr Shanks has contributed greatly to the amazing Science results over the years and we thank him for that. He will be wonderful in his new role for OAT where he will be a Lead Practitioner for Science.

I wish to assure parents that OMA is fully staffed for September. The following staff have joined: Mr Robson (Assistant Principal); Mr Silvester (Assistant Principal); Mr Marsden (Art); Miss Lancashire (Performing Arts/Music), Mr Daniel Dickinson and Mr Calam Blowman who will both join our PE team.

Mr Gascoyne (Head of Humanities) also joined the team at Easter; Miss Layton has started as our new Attendance Officer. Miss Standley has joined our admin team and Mr Smith has joined the site team and Sgt Torr will be joining the Academy as School Staff Instructor for our CCF. We welcome all our new staff to the OMA family.

### **Getting ready for September**

I've been really grateful for the support shown by parents, OAT and the Governors. The staff have been amazing in the plans to reopen in September and I've been really impressed by their 'can do' attitude. They have been extremely positive which also helps the students. I think we are all looking forward to some normality come September.

Plans are in place for a full return for all students. Parents will receive more information in the summer break. It's hard to know yet what the impact will be on students. I don't think we will really know until we are up and running properly and we've all had time to work with them.

Like all the other schools in the Trust, the potential gaps in learning when students return is something we have considered carefully. I think it's important to realise that every student will be impacted differently, and a one size fits all model won't be the right way to approach this.

We plan to start with a Vocational Academy in the summer break for current Year 10, which has been well received by our community with a lot of students signed up for the sessions.

A new communications app is being launched to promote the on-line home study students will be set to help catch up their learning. We will also be putting on after school, weekend and holiday catch up sessions to different year groups.

### **Safety the priority**

Getting the staff and students back into OMA safely is important to everyone but mostly to the students themselves. Academies are the cornerstone of society; students spend the majority of their time at OMA and learning from their teachers and peers. Twenty-three weeks out of education will leave a mark on every student, but we hope that they have been able to spend lots of quality time with their families, which under normal circumstances, they might not have been able to do.

We are really excited about having all of our students back in the building and reminding them of the skills and qualities of being a student at OMA.

I wish you and your family a fantastic summer break, I hope that you stay safe and well and I look forward to welcoming all students back in September.

**Mrs Carrienne Robson**  
**Principal**  
**July 2020**

