

Our Ref: LTM/kmd/nyltr

10 January 2025



Dear Parent /Carer,

Re: Happy New Year and Welcome Back

Welcome back to the start of the Spring term. I very much hope that you have had a restful festive holiday period and enjoyed time with family and friends. It has been great to have everyone back in school this week where we have seen a positive return for all our students who have returned refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

In our assemblies this week we have been looking at the importance of positivity within our community and the positive impact we can have on others. At a time when we see so much devastation around the world, particularly most recently with the wildfires in California and surrounding areas, never more are the messages linked to positivity, resilience and supporting each other been so important.

In school, we are delighted to welcome to the team Miss Short (Teacher of Food & Nutrition), Miss Reddington (subject lead for ICT) and Mr Laycock (Science). We wish them all the very best during their start with us and look forward to the opportunities they will support in school.

During this week we have had our normal start of term focus on uniform ([Uniform | Oldbury Wells](#)) and ensuring that students have the correct equipment in school to effectively engage in lessons. A reminder that all required equipment is available via our school shop ([School Shop | Oldbury Wells](#)). Thank you to all families for supporting our students to ensure they are ready to learn when arriving in school.

To support this and following student feedback, we have also provided students with a new paper-based planner to help with organisation in school. This does not replace any of the current systems such as Satchel One or Go4Schools but does provide students with an opportunity to make additional notes in school. Students have been provided with an updated copy of their timetable to put in their planner and which they are expected to have with them for all lessons to help with organisation.

As always, we have a busy term ahead and we look forward to supporting students with the many opportunities which will be taking place alongside the taught curriculum and thank families in advance for their ongoing support.

At the end of this week, we say goodbye to Mrs Bridgwater (Pastoral Manager for Year 7) who moves onto a new position. Mrs Bridgwater has been at OWS for 17 years and has supported so many young people and families, making a real difference to their lives. She has offered support during some of the most challenging times for individuals and will be greatly missed by everyone in school. We all thank her for the difference she has made and wish her all the very best for the future. Mrs Lawson (Assistant Headteacher KS3) will be working closely with Mr Smith (Head of Year 7) to ensure that Year 7 students continue to be well supported in school until an appointment has been finalised for the Pastoral Manager role.

Finally, I wish everyone all the very best for the term ahead. We look forward to celebrating all students' achievements as we work further into the academic year.

Yours faithfully

Lee Tristham
Headteacher

Aspire | Enjoy | Achieve