



March 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Your child has kindly volunteered to take part in an initiative set up with the Odiham Almshouses, who provide rented accommodation for elderly residents of Odiham Parish. The programme will begin the week starting 26th March 2018, to lead on until Easter 2019, where they will need to take a break for GCSEs. We are writing to you to confirm the current arrangements and notify you about our plans.

Students will be allocated a resident in groups, to visit them for 20-40 minutes each week to chat. A study in 2008 found that weekly 'interaction' with youth improves the elderly's life span and quality of life, whilst many studies have shown that developing connections with older generations can have significant improvements on student's, including reduced risk of mental illness and improved social skills. This can also be used for DofE volunteering, which the warden, Cathy, has agreed to sign off on. Current Year 11 students who are visiting until Easter, would all agree that the visits have been very enjoyable; we hope your child will also enjoy the visits.

After school on their chosen day, students will walk up to the houses in their pairs, to begin visits between 14:40 and 14:50. They will need to carry a phone and should leave by 15:20, to walk back to school in time for late buses. The warden will be on site at all times, and students should understand that they must not visit alone or go in groups larger than two, as more than that could be overwhelming for some residents.

Students must also have access to a mobile telephone and should call the school office if any issues arise during the visits. Miss Turnbull or myself will be available to speak to students whilst the visits are taking place.

Please could you complete the consent form below and return it to the school office by **Wednesday 14th March 2018**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Tom Rhys

To: School Office Almshouses Visits, from 26th March 2018

I do not give/give* permission for in form to participate in visits to the Odiham Almshouses, from 26th March 2018. My contact details can be taken from your school records.

Signed Parent/Carer Date

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