



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have been able to have a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

I am sure that you have been following national developments with regards to the reopening of schools next term and know that, other than for some vulnerable and critical worker children, term will start for secondary school children on Monday 11th January. Year 11 and 13 will return to school on the 11th January and the remaining year groups on Monday 18th January. The arrangements for the start of term are outlined below.

### **Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January**

Tuesday 5th January is an already scheduled INSET day and is being used to enable staff to prepare for remote learning and to carry out lateral flow testing. It has now been recognised that in order to keep schools safe and to prepare for mass testing, the vast majority of students will stay at home from Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January.

- **Students who are vulnerable and the children of critical workers may attend school**, where they will be supervised in following the same remote learning programme as those at home. Students will not be expected to wear school uniform and will attend school for their normal start and finish times for the school day. The OS bus services will run as normal from Wednesday 6th January onwards. Students in school on these days will have a lateral flow test in school, if they have given consent for this. Children will need to bring in a packed lunch.
- **All other students should stay at home and access remote learning.** The Department of Education suggested that it could be only students in Years 11 and 13 who would receive remote learning in this week, we have decided, however, to provide remote learning for all students in this week. On Wednesday 6th January this will be work that has been set via our online learning tool and we will be sharing this with you before the start of term. Year 11 and 13 students will be taught via Teams from Wednesday onwards. All year groups will be taught via Teams from Thursday 7th January onwards and they will follow their normal timetable. The information on how remote learning will operate is on the school website; parents with children in Year 7, 9 and 11 will be familiar with these arrangements as they are the same as those that were in place when these year groups were self-isolating last term.

A reminder of the remote learning arrangements and instructions on accessing Teams from home will be sent to parents before the start of term. In the meantime, please contact Mr Reeves via <mailto:enquiries@oldfieldschool.com> if your child does not have access to a device which enables them to access Microsoft Teams.



- **Year 11 and 13 lateral flow tests**

We will be implementing mass testing for Years 11 and 13 during the first week of term with the intention that all who have consented to a test will have the first of their two tests by Friday 8th January. We will provide more details about the testing arrangements on Tuesday 5th January. This may mean that you have very short notice with regards to the testing date and time for your child (it could be on Wednesday 6th January). My apologies for this, but we are working to a very tight schedule to try to have all of the arrangements in place to implement testing from the start of term and to complete this before students return to school.

**From Monday 11th January**

- Students who are vulnerable and the children of critical workers may attend school from 6th January. Students in Years 11 & 13 will return from Monday 11th January. Year 11 and 13 students will have their second lateral flow test on their return to school.
- Students in all other year groups will continue with their remote learning at home. During this week we intend to test students from all other year groups before their return to school on Monday January 18th. The planning for this is still in development.
- All students will be expected to wear full school uniform from Monday 11th January onwards.
- The OS bus services will be running as normal this week.

**From Monday 18th January**

- All students will return to school. With the current government plan to test students twice within five days, this will mean that further testing will be required for students in Year 7,8,9,10 and 12 to carry out the second of their two tests. There are some logistical obstacles to resolve before we know the exact programme for doing this and we will update you as and when we know.

There are external assessments/ examinations taking place for some Year 11 and 12 students, these will be taking place as planned and if you child is involved with these you will be contacted about the arrangements for these early next term. A number of Year 13 students were due to resit mock examinations during the first week of term. These will be rescheduled for the week beginning 11th January.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals we will be implementing the arrangements used last year and when year groups have been self-isolating and you will receive payments for this directly into your bank account.



It is possible that the guidance on school opening next term may change and that the phased return to school is delayed further into January. I will keep you updated on developments and the implications of these for our start of term arrangements.

Best wishes and stay safe

Steven Mackay