

Dear Parents,

As week two of this half term draws to an end I wanted to provide you with a further update.

Confirmed Cases

We are not aware of any other further confirmed cases this week connected to the school community. However, it is very important that we do not let our guard drop, and please can I therefore remind parents of the need to err on the side of caution with regards to possible symptoms below:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Please can I also stress again that the rules are that if **anyone in your household has arranged or taken a test because they have relevant symptoms, then no members of that household can attend school until that person returns a negative test result.**

Contacting school about COVID 19 related matters

When contacting school about any COVID 19 related matters (including pupil absence) please can I ask parents to copy in both admin@ohgs.co.uk and covid@ohgs.co.uk as well as the normal channels. This will ensure that all of the relevant staff will have the most up to date information as quickly as possible. We have temporarily deployed Mrs Shaw as a COVID 19 Response Officer and she is monitoring our spreadsheets and liaising with local Public Health officials as necessary.

Government Guidance

Parents will be aware that this is changing regularly and the latest advice to parents is [here](#). In terms of extra curricular activities these are permitted to take place where they happen during the school day, are focussed on training, or are providing essential wrap around care. We have been continuing to review our [risk assessment](#) in the light of changes and the latest version is available by following the link.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable

The latest advice for children in this category is as follows:

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice and can continue to attend nursery, school or college in this period. You should speak to your child's GP or specialist clinician if you have not already done so, to understand if your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. If a doctor has confirmed that your child is still [clinically extremely vulnerable](#), you are advised that they should not attend nursery, their childminder, school or college during the period of national restrictions. If this is the case for your child, you will receive a letter confirming this advice.

Children who live with individuals that are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable can continue to attend.

If this applies to any of our pupils please can I ask parents to contact us as soon as possible.

Public Examinations

I understand that the press speculation about exams can cause anxiety for our pupils in Years 11 and 13, but the government's position remains unchanged as stated below:

On Monday 12 October 2020, we confirmed that exams will go ahead next year and most AS, A level and GCSE exams will be delayed by 3 weeks to give pupils more time to catch up on their learning.

The main exam series will start on 7 June 2021, just after the May half-term, and end on 2 July 2021.

Please be assured that our dedicated staff team will continue to do all we can to ensure that, whatever the circumstances, our pupils are not disadvantaged.

School Life

I continue to be very proud of how our pupils and staff are responding to the restrictions that we face, demonstrating their: resilience, initiative and good humour. I hope that Year 11 students found the Sixth Form Information Event helpful and we will be sending a video for parents with information about sixth form life from myself and Mrs Longley. I have begun to hold my google meets with our Year 6 pupils and their parents and would again ask any parents who wish to take up this offer to contact my PA, Mrs Webb d.webb@ohgs.co.uk who will be pleased to arrange an appointment.

I continue to be grateful for the patience of parents and I hope those of you who have taken part in online parents' evenings have found these to be helpful. It was lovely on Wednesday that children from Juniors to Sixth Form could share in our virtual Remembrance Assembly which we managed to coordinate between three venues, which you can watch [here](#).

At the time of writing our Nursery & Infants and Juniors are enjoying supporting Children in Need today.

Yours sincerely,

CJD Mairs (Principal)