

Dear Parents,

As the second week of term comes to a close I wanted to write to provide a further update.

Remote learning:

Pupils should now be settled into their remote learning routines. Again I would stress the importance of structure and maintaining good working habits. We are mindful of the pressures created by lots of screen time and feedback remains welcome to Miss Barnett c.barnett@ohgs.co.uk for the Nursery and Infants, Mrs Knott r.knott@ohgs.co.uk for the Juniors and Mr Jones m.jones@ohgs.co.uk for Senior School.

It is important that pupils remain active as well and I would encourage them to take part in the PE's department's House Challenge [Race to Ghana](#). Mr Hurst's assembly explaining how this works can be found by following the link and pupils can contribute by filling in the google form [here](#).

The small number of children in school for critical workers provision are also working hard and we are grateful to the staff who are supervising this.

Year 7 Entrance Examination

Year 6 parents should now have received separate notification of the arrangements for the [Year 7 Entrance Examination](#). For any questions about this parents should contact admissions@ohgs.co.uk. Our overall [COVID 19 risk assessment](#) has been updated again with the specific arrangements relating to the examination and these can be found starting on page 32.

Asymptomatic testing for COVID 19

We are also now settled into a routine of testing staff who are working on site regularly. This process is overseen by our own qualified School Nurse and our risk assessment for this is [here](#).

If any Senior School parents are yet to complete either the consent form or the consent refusal form they are again given below. I have read in the press that this is to be rolled out to primary age pupils soon, but we await further details on this.

[Mass COVID 19 Testing Consent form](#)

Or:

[Consent refusal form](#)

GCSE and A Levels 2021

Since my last letter there has been further public correspondence between the [Secretary of State for Education](#) and [Ofqual](#) on the subject of this summer's GCSEs and A Levels. There is still much that is unclear but key points are:

- A consultation is to be launched imminently which will last for two weeks;
- "A breadth of evidence should inform teachers' judgements";
- Teachers' final judgements will be as late as possible to "maximise remaining teaching time and ensure students are motivated to remain engaged in education";
- The Education Secretary has also asked Ofqual to explore the "possibility of providing externally set tasks or papers, in order that teachers can draw on this resource to support their assessments of students";
- There will be no algorithm to standardise grades;
- However, it does look like there will be some system of moderation to confirm that the process and evidence used to award a grade is reasonable. Changes should only be made if those grades cannot be justified, rather than as a result of marginal differences of opinion;
- "There will be an appeals process for any student who doesn't believe their grade reflects the standard of their work".

Once again the key message is that students in Years 11 and 13 should keep working on their courses. We will be conducting our trial examinations but these will be scheduled for a later date than currently published. Parents and pupils will be informed of the new trial exam period as soon as possible, but these dates will be influenced by how and when we are expected to provide actual GCSE and A-level grades. We will of course be giving students and parents suitable notice.

And Finally

Once again I am proud of how pupils and staff (both support and academic) are responding to the challenges we face. The level of engagement of our pupils is excellent and we continue to be very grateful for the kind messages from parents who are clearly appreciative of the efforts of the staff.

Yours sincerely,

CJD Mairs