

Dear Parents,

I am writing to provide an update for parents on various matters.

Confirmed Cases of Covid 19

We continue to see a small number of cases of Covid 19 across the school community with both pupils and staff. These have been fewer in the last week, and there is no clear pattern to suggest sustained in school transmission. We continue to be in regular touch with the local public health team and have been sending 'Warn and Inform' letters to relevant parents when pupils have been in close contact with confirmed cases.

Where pupils do have to isolate as a result of COVID 19 we will continue to provide high quality [remote learning](#).

Measures in school

Please can I continue to ask for parents' support in 'erring on the side of caution' with regards to relevant symptoms, and in encouraging pupils to undertake their regular lateral flow tests which are an important way of keeping the school community safe. The DfE has asked this to continue throughout the term. We are also continuing to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene in school and are asking pupils to continue to wear their face coverings on the school buses.

We continue to be vigilant and monitor the situation closely, but we do not see the need to use any of our other additional contingency measures at this time.

Vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds

We have now received a date from the Oldham School Nursing team as to when our pupils will be offered a vaccine for COVID 19. This is **Friday 12th November**.

We are aware that there will be different parental views about this matter. The [government guidance](#) is clear that the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team is contractually and legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccination programme. School's role in this process is merely to provide a venue, organise the throughput of students, and send out consent letters to parents. Parents should contact the SAIS if they have any questions or concerns.

At the time of writing we have received no further information about consent forms.

GCSE and A Levels 2022

In the last 24 hours there has been a flurry of important information released relating to next summer's public examinations.

Ofqual have announced [how examinations for 2022 will be modified](#). In short there will be a choice of topics in: English Literature, History and Geography and modifications made to the practical requirements in Science. In Art, students will be assessed on their portfolios only.

In other subjects: *"Exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects for the summer 2022 exams. The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision. Therefore, the DfE has confirmed that advance information will be provided by 7 February 2022 at the latest."*

Ofqual have also announced what their approach is going to be to [grading standards in 2022](#). In summary, results nationally in each subject will be an average of 2019 and 2021 levels. That means grades will be higher than 2019, but not as high as 2020.

Yesterday Ofqual also launched a consultation about what '[Plan B](#)' might look like if examinations have to be cancelled again next summer. Parents and students are free to respond to this consultation if they wish. Whilst the consultation stresses that: "**The government is firmly committed to GCSE, AS and A level exams going ahead in England in academic year 2021 to 2022**" it makes provision for alternative arrangements.

In effect Plan B is for a version of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) again with exam boards being more prescriptive about the types of evidence used. It talks about various windows where schools might gather formal evidence and stresses that they should make clear to pupils that this evidence could be used in the event of TAGs. We will obviously be briefing our pupils in school fully about how all of this affects them.

Finally in terms of results, it has been confirmed that results days will return to the previous established pattern (rather than being in the same week, as was the case this year).

Therefore:

AS and A levels will be released on **18 August 2022**

and GCSEs on **25 August 2022**

Open Events

It was lovely to welcome many families to school last Friday (Year 7) and Saturday (Nursery & Infants) to our Open Events. I was proud of the pupils who represented the school so well. If parents have families and friends who missed these events they can register for the Year 7 entrance examination or a personal tour by contacting admissions@ohgs.co.uk.

The Sixth Form Open event is fast approaching at **6pm on Thursday 14th October**.

Inset Day Reminder

A reminder to parents that **Friday 15th October** is an Inset day and there will be no attendance for pupils on this day.

CJD Mairs
Principal