

Dear Parents,

As we reach half term I am writing to provide a brief update on key issues.

COVID 19

Parents will have seen in the press that case numbers amongst young people are high at present. I am pleased to say we have not seen that replicated at OHGS over the last few weeks. Therefore, we have not seen the need to implement additional measures from our [contingency plan](#).

However, we are aware from the experience of other schools that things can change quickly, and we have moved from 3 to 7 positive cases in the last 24 hours. As four of our cases have been in Year 12, the local Public Health Team have asked that all of Year 12 undertake a PCR test, and parents should have received the "Warn and Inform" letter from Mrs Shaw.

As we approach the winter months it is very important that we are not complacent. In particular we are being urged to encourage pupils in Senior School to undertake their twice weekly lateral flow testing. We can see from the returns that there are fewer students undertaking and reporting these results than last academic year.

In terms of vaccinations for 12-15 year olds I wrote the following in my last update and the position has not changed since that point:

*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.

We continue to receive daily updates from the DfE and in one of those this week we received a [joint letter from the Secretaries of State for Education and Health & Social Care](#) which we were asked to pass on to parents.

Open Events

It has been good to welcome many parents and students to our Open Events this term for Year 7, Nursery & Infants and last night for our Sixth Form. We are now offering full year wrap around provision in our Nursery to children from age 2. Advance notice that our Year 7 Entrance Examination will take place this year on **Wednesday 12th January**. If parents have family or friends who would like any information about any of these various entry points, please do encourage them to contact admissions@ohgs.co.uk.

Extra-curricular programme

It has been very encouraging to see many parts of this programme return to 'normality' this half-term. Lots of pupils have represented the school in competitive sport, and there have been successful trips, field trips and visits. Auditions will take place after half-term for the spring performances of 'Beauty and the Beast' and there will be lots of Christmas events to look forward to. It was lovely to be able to welcome Nursery & Infants and Juniors parents to our Harvest Festivals this week. We are also looking forward to being able to celebrate the pupils' successes at the Senior School Speech Night in The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham at **7.15pm on Monday 8th November**, when our guest of honour will be former Oldham Athletic Manager, Joe Royle.

And Finally

I wish all pupils, staff and parents an enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming the pupils back on Monday 1st November.

Yours sincerely,

CJD Mairs
(Principal)