

CATCH IT! BIN IT! KILL IT!



Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

05 January 2021

Once again, the government have made another significant announcement which will have a profound impact on families, young people and communities and have again left this to very late in the day. This is just a short note to update you on the key aspects that have changed. You will find the following information below.

- Information regarding the postponement of mass testing for the majority of students.
- A brief overview of remote education to get your children started this week.
- A brief initial statement for our exam's groups given the announcements about the exams.

Postponed Mass Testing: (giving consent)

Firstly, I can confirm that given the circumstance, we have now postponed the lateral flow COVID tests for all students. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to conduct tests for our exam students who are sitting exams in school, our critical worker and vulnerable students who are being taught in school and staff who are continuing to work in school to provide support to students.

We have also reopened our consent form for parents to complete. I thank you all of you who have already completed and submitted your consent for the testing. As of this morning we have 64% of parents/ students who have given their consent. This is still important as we are expecting this to be rescheduled in the two weeks prior to our return to school. We are still asking that you please complete this as soon as possible.

Remote Learning at OSA: (getting started)

All students are now being set work online on Teams. Our preparation by using Teams for homework during term 1 is really paying off as students and staff are now more confident finding and using the online tools. The quality of online work has been developed over this time and we are following the principles of responsive online teaching so that work is accessible, challenging, and interesting.

All students can expect:

- Work to be set for the lessons they are normally timetabled for each day.
- The assignments to be available by 9am each morning.
- Students should be ready to start their remote learning from 9am.
- There will be sufficient work to keep students engaged in their learning for up to an hour for each lesson.
- Teachers will let your child know the best way to get in touch with them and will provide feedback, help and guidance to students.
- Regular touch base phone calls from a tutor or member of the pastoral/ support team will also help keep in touch and communicate/ share any concerns with teachers.

We recognise that there has been a big change and a substantial increase in the time that students will need to study and access remote education from home. There are some new elements we want to develop, introduce, and review and we will be providing further information about this in our parent update at the end of this week. Please do look out for this on Friday.

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Exam Groups

Following the briefing from Boris Johnson, we are waiting for further clarification from Gavin Williamson regarding the June exam series. We will keep you updated with announcements and how we will respond. We recognise that this may be unsettling, and we will work with you and your child to ensure they have all the available information in a timely manner. We are very proud of our Yr11s' resilience and integrity which they have shown throughout their journey at OSA. We urge students to carry on completing work from their teachers and maintain their revision schedule. Sixth Form students in Year 12 and 13 will also have work from teachers and should complete this as requested. It is clearly important that teachers see students' best work, as everything completed now adds to the information teachers have to allow them to assess students' levels if they are called upon to do that. If there are any queries about UCAS or other Sixth Form issues, please contact Dr Watson by email.

Once again, a huge thank you from me for all of your support. I appreciate that this is not the start to the year that any of us were exactly wishing for. We will however continue to work in partnership to provide the best we can for you, your family and for our community at this time. Please do make contact with colleagues at the school if you would like to ask any questions, need support, or need additional guidance.

Best wishes

Marianne Blake