



JULY 2021 UPDATE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS – RISING YEAR 7

A message from Mr Hebblethwaite, our incoming Principal

I am delighted to be joining the excellent team at OSA in September. Clearly it has been a very difficult period in education, but I am hugely optimistic that the new academic year and beyond will be very successful. Alongside the continuous drive to improve the quality of learning for all students, our main focus at OSA when we return will be re-establishing routines and high expectations. I look forward to building strong relationships with parents and carers as we continue our mission to ensure that OSA delivers a first-class education for your daughter/son. I will write to you again early in the new term, and I wish you and your family a safe and happy summer holiday.

Uniform and equipment from September: high expectations

We believe that strong uniform standards engender a sense of community and unity, and really makes OSA students stand out in the local community. We also believe that all students must have the equipment they need (pens, pencils etc.) to learn effectively. In preparation for September please see the attached uniform and equipment document, which also includes the new procedures if a student arrives at school in incorrect uniform. We appreciate your co-operation making sure that all OSA students are smart and well equipped.

Asymptomatic Testing

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils are being offered 2 on-site lateral flow device tests for their return in the autumn term. This will help to identify cases of COVID19 and stop transmission to support the return to education – particularly as most students will not be testing for a long period over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing. It will also give new pupils and students the opportunity to get used to swabbing in a supervised environment before moving to twice weekly testing at home.

We will be asking all students to come onsite on Thursday 2nd September 2021 for their 1st test.

Please see the Covid testing schedule enclosed.

Please can you complete the consent form following the link <https://forms.office.com/r/XRFiYuA6H0> to enable us to test all students.

Year 7 responsive curriculum summary

Staff will focus on building relationships and establishing great learning routines to secure the best possible transition from primary school. A robust programme of literacy and maths interventions will be in place for students who require this. Students will have library lessons to support reading comprehension and additional lesson time in languages to develop a strong foundation for success. For all years: A rich programme of extra curriculum and support activities will be on offer for all students. A calendar will be published in September.





Good News!

After a pause in many of our usual extra-curricular events due to lockdown, OSA has had a very successful final term! We were delighted to see Martha (Year 10) reach the national final of the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare competition, and come joint third out of the final 16 speakers. Judges commented on her talent in her recreation of the character of Kate in *Henry IV, Part 1*. As well as national competitions in speaking, we were also very pleased to see our teams at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 win their heats of the Anthem Trust competition, Speak Up, on Friday 2 July. Congratulations to Merca (Speaker), Rose (Chair), Erik (Vote of Thanks) at Key Stage 3, and Ayesha (Speaker), Dora (Chair) and Emily (Questioner) at Key Stage 4. Thank you too to our excellent Sixth Form debaters, Daisy and Buster who argued articulately in their round.

Commitment to enrichment

As the recent good news section shows, Oxford Spires continues with its commitment to enriching its students to build their wider skills and knowledge. Despite the difficulties of lockdown, we have provided opportunities (often online last year) and we have a very full programme of House events, extra-curricular clubs, and super curricular learning planned for the year ahead. Whether you are interested in maths or public speaking, acting or sport, music or chess, there will be something to suit everyone! We have continued, for instance, to offer Duke of Edinburgh through much of this year, and plan to enable students in Year 11 next year to complete their expedition and gain their Bronze Awards. Students in Years 9 and 10 next year, who would like to join D of E Bronze, will have the chance to sign up after assemblies early in the year. As another example, a new initiative this next year will involve a group of students from a wide range of years working with academics and theatre practitioners to create their own production of *The Winter's Tale* in the summer, and we have plans for several year groups to work again with the Ashmolean and the Bodleian. We really look forward to being able to take students to in-person events as we have in the past, so far as safety allows, in the new academic year.



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Key Dates

September 2021	
Thurs 2 nd	Asymptomatic testing all students (1 st test)
Fri 3 rd	Term 1 starts Year 7 students – 8.30am
Mon 6 th	Asymptomatic testing all students (2 nd test)
Mon 20 th	School Photographs
Wed 29 th	Year 7 Parents' Coffee Morning
Thurs 30 th	Year 7 Settling In Meeting
October 2021	
Thurs 14 th	Open Evening
Thurs 21 st	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Fri 22 nd	Last day of term 1

Structure of the day – Students to arrive no later than by 8.30am.

Monday - Thursday		Friday	
8:35-8:45	Tutor	8:35-8:45	Tutor
8:45-9:45	Lesson 1	8:45-9:45	Lesson 1
9:45-10:45	Lesson 2	9:45-10:45	Lesson 2
10:45-11:05	Break	10:45-11:05	Break
11:05-12:05	Lesson 3	11:05-12:05	Lesson 3
12:05-13:05	Lesson 4	12:05-13:05	Lesson 4
13:05-13:40	Lunch	13:05-13:40	Lunch
13:40-13:45	Transition	13:40-13:45	Transition
13:45-14:10	Tutor and Assemblies	13:45-14:45	Lesson 5
14:10-15:10	Lesson 5		

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and relaxing summer, and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Oxford Spires Academy in September.