

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the government announcement this evening we wished to touch base with you as our school family. We realise that there is a huge level of uncertainty for you all as parents/carers, and we share this uncertainty, as the announcement came as fresh news to us just as it did to you.

From Tuesday 5th January we will only be open for key worker and vulnerable groups. Those who require their children to attend as a key worker child have emailed schoolclosure@olcc.lancs.sch.uk as per our request sent on Friday 18th December and have received a response to confirm a place has been allocated. If you wish your child to be added to this list please email the above address by 3pm Thursday 31st December – it is crucial that you include your child's name, year group, your job title and place of work. We cannot guarantee a place in the key worker groups if you have not responded by this time/date as we need to create bubbled groups and staff these accordingly.

If your child is classed as vulnerable as per the government definition you will be contacted via email or text to inform you that your child should return to school from Tuesday 5th January. Please be aware that this is a compulsory requirement – it is not optional – therefore there is an expectation that your child will be back with us from 5th January. The government definition that we adhere to are children who:

- **are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child**
- **have an education, health and care (EHC) plan**
- **have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:**

Also children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services:

- **adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')**
- **those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers**
- **those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)**
- **others at the provider and local authority's discretion**

A brief overview of how we see the coming weeks as follows:

Week commencing 5th January:

During this week remote learning will be available for Years 11 and 13 only as they are exam year groups. The remaining year groups will not receive any official remote learning from school, as we will be endeavouring to put together a system of mass testing as per the governmental request. We will provide information in regard to this when we have further arrangements in place.

Week commencing 11th January:

During this week remote learning will be available for all year groups – the expectation will be that all students engage in remote learning delivered via TEAMS. The majority of this will not be live teaching but will be in the way of uploaded assignments. Please encourage your children to engage with this learning as much as possible, our teachers and staff will of course support all that we can. Some Year 11 and 13 students will return to school subject to testing capability.

Week commencing 18th January:

According to the current government advice all students will be back in school and continuing with normal lessons from this date. The government plan to review this and confirm prior to the expected return date.

Mass testing

Regarding the mass testing system that we are being asked to implement in schools, we have very little information that we can share currently but we will keep you updated as soon as we know more. Please be assured that no child will be tested without parental consent.

Vocational Exams – Year 10, 11, 12 and 13: January

According to the government announcement today any vocational exams taking place over the next few weeks are still to take place. Therefore, any students that these involve should still attend school to sit these exams as per their exam timetable. Any updates or additional information will come directly to parents/students.

Sixth Form Mid-Year Internal Exams

Mrs Lowe will rearrange the exam times. Students should continue revising.

Free School Meals

We are awaiting guidance from the local authority as to how the free school meal provision will be provided for eligible students who are not able to come into school due to the current restrictions. Please bear with us, we will be in touch with information as soon as we can. Please note that the students who fall into the vulnerable group who will be expected to attend school during the next two weeks will be provided with their free school meal within the school setting.

Thank you as always for your support and patience, we do realise that these uncertain times can bring worry to our families – we hope that you recognise we are dealing with all the fast-paced changes as well as we can, and that the safety of our students and staff is always at the heart of what we choose to do.

Please contact schoolclosure@olcc.lancs.sch.uk with any major concerns - we ask that you only contact us with urgent issues to enable us to focus on the main priority of getting school fully open again and our students back in full time face to face education.

Kind regards,

Mrs H Seddon
Headteacher