

Dear Parents / Carers

End of Term

We are aware that the government suggested we could finish a day earlier but have decided to keep our original finishing date of 18th December at 12.20. This is because it is short notice for parents and we would have to add an extra school day to next term or the final term which may also affect family plans for breaks or holidays.

It is very important that if your child tests positive for COVID 19 during the holidays, and has displayed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, you contact school by email on schoolclosure@olcc.lancs.sch.uk Members of staff will check this daily and will contact pupils who have been in direct contact and advise them to self-isolate.

COVID 19

We had hoped that our special arrangements due to COVID 19 would only last a few weeks. It is clear that this will continue into next term. To try and return to more normal times we have decided to reintroduce daily form time. We have missed having that daily contact with the form tutor to check pupils are set up for the day and to strengthen that pastoral link. Form Time will happen within the Year Group Bubble so will not further increase of the spread of virus. Start times will remain the same for all but Year 9 who will start at 8.45.

Sixth formers will need to attend form time every Monday and days that they have lessons period 1. On other days they will continue to arrive for their first lesson. However, this will not be introduced until after the exams in the first two weeks.

We are delighted that we are able to see our families for five days over the Christmas period. However, we are concerned that this will lead to an increase in cases. Please do follow the guidelines and limit contact with others wherever possible.

Uniform

We are grateful for your support in ensuring pupils wear their uniform correctly. We have allowed them to wear coats indoors to keep warm whilst we ventilate rooms to reduce risk. Pupils are still expected to wear the rest of their uniform and a coat is in addition. Please check that they are still wearing their blazers when setting off for school. We still expect pupils to wear school shoes; trainers are only for PE days or if they have a medical note. Skirts are to be knee-length and pupils will be asked to replace shorter skirts or wear trousers, which may be preferable for the colder months. Despite the rumours the uniform has not changed to include pencil skirts. Please check on the website for uniform expectations, including information about haircuts and piercings.

PE

Pupils are expected to wear school PE kit for all PE lessons. They must wear a school PE hoodie or their jumper and blazer if they are cold. They are permitted to wear a pair of dark, i.e. navy or black bottoms, (leggings, joggers or tracksuit pants). Unbranded is preferable but small, discreet logos will be permitted. Large words down the side of the leg are unacceptable.

Virtual Parents' Evenings

In the last few weeks, we have trialled virtual Parents' Evenings for Year 7, 11 and Sixth Form. We are keen to hear how it was for parents. If you have time to email your child's PSO with your thoughts, we would be very grateful. How easy was it to make bookings? How was the appointment? How do you think we could improve the system?

Polite Request

A neighbour of school, who lives on Lune Street, has raised the issue of people dropping off and picking up their children. Whilst he understands the need to do so, he has requested that people remember it is a residential area and try to do so quietly as many residents are still asleep and others do shift work.

Parental Portal

To access the portal please go to our school website at <https://www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk> and select parental portal from the communications section in the menu. If you haven't already checked your personal data on our Parental Portal please do so. You can also keep up-to-date with school by looking at our website, our Facebook page and our twitter feed, which is Headteacher OLCC

Exams 2021

By now you might have seen the government's announcement about the package of measures to address the loss of learning and teaching this year, and the contingency plans for summer 2021 exams. The key measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with 2020
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels, to help them focus their revision
- exam aids – like formula sheets – provided in some exams to give students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to memorise
- contingency exams – held shortly after the main exam series – so students can sit a paper if they miss all their assessments in a subject because of illness or self-isolation

Currently, we do not have details of how these measures will be used in different subject areas. As soon as we have more information we will let you know. This is obviously a stressful time for pupils studying for exams and we are trying to do all we can to support them.

Contact over the holidays

We understand that since March everyone has been doing all they can to cope with all the issues brought up by the pandemic and it has been incredibly tiring and stressful for so many of you. This is also true for our school staff. They have been at higher risk than most other workers but have accepted that for the good of our pupils. They are having contact with large numbers of pupils and teaching them whilst trying to keep a distance and not wearing a mask. Other staff in their roles have supported pupils, again putting themselves at a higher risk. They have worked tirelessly to try and make sure pupils are making the progress they should and even more importantly that pupils feel happy and safe. In order for them to be rested and ready to do the same again next term it is essential that they take their Christmas holidays, spend it with their loved ones and relax. Therefore, staff will not be available to message, email or call you unless it is for COVID19 cases. We will not be responding to Facebook messages either. Please keep this letter so that you have the information you need and if you have a question check the website for an answer.

Christmas

It seems very strange to be writing at the end of the first term. It seems like lockdown was announced only yesterday and yet our community has been through so much in the last nine months. We could despair and become disheartened but as a Catholic school we have been talking to the pupils about hope, that we are not alone with our worries. We are nearing Christmas when we celebrate that God so loved the world that he came and shared our human life. He came to bring, love, peace and joy to our broken world. I hope that you are able to celebrate Christmas with the people you love the most and that you can look forward to a new year filled with many blessings.

School will reopen on Tuesday 5th January. It will be a week B

Thank you for all your support during this unprecedented year. After months of home schooling, you all deserve a happy, school free holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Seddon

Headteacher