

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: COVID19 Update – Government announcement regarding new term staggered start arrangements

I trust you are well.

The Government updated its guidance to schools late on Thursday afternoon, via BBC news, regarding the start of term in January and has advised that secondary schools in England **should not** fully re-open to all students following the Christmas holidays **until Monday 11th January**.

This ‘staggered’ opening has been designed to allow school leaders to prepare to set up and run ‘mini test and trace schemes’ in their schools. Current information would suggest that secondary schools will organise and conduct Lateral Flow testing of students on their return from the Christmas break twice, three days apart to make sure transmission of the virus is broken. Schools will then test close ‘contacts’ of those with confirmed cases of the virus to avoid the 10-day self-isolation period being required (better keeping children with onsite education). The Government say testing will be optional but strongly encouraged, particularly in areas of higher prevalence of the virus (as is Thurrock). As yet we wait for further guidance and details.

OPA will be open for onsite learning from Tuesday 5th January 2021, as scheduled, for students classed as vulnerable / children of key workers, for ASCEND students and for students in Year 11 (exam year group). Students classed as vulnerable or keyworker, most of who have been on site for the last 2 weeks of term, will be individually contacted over the Christmas break and invited onsite.

All other students will receive their learning remotely for the first week of term from Tuesday 5th January until Friday 8th January 2021 and will be expected to fully engage with this. Thank you again for your support at home to facilitate this educational provision.

Year 7, 8, 9, 10 online remote learning arrangements for Tuesday 5th January until Friday 8th January

- We will endeavour to follow the normal timetables as much as possible. This means that at the time of your child’s lesson their teacher will teach the timetabled lesson on Microsoft Teams. Each lesson will last for 40 minutes instead of the usual 60 minutes, this to allow both students and staff time to log in and prepare correctly for each lesson. During the lesson time teachers will be able to answer questions and speak to the children about the learning. Outside of the normal lesson time, they will not be available to do this as they will be teaching other classes.
- Given that some staff maybe unwell, not all lessons will necessarily be able to be conducted as outlined above. Where that is the case, we will endeavour to set work on Microsoft Teams

and / or Showmyhomework. Both should be checked regularly but students should log into all lessons.

Year 11 + ASCEND learning arrangements for Tuesday 5th until Friday 8th January

- All Year 11 and ASCEND students are expected and required to attend the academy every day and will follow normal timetabled lessons.

We appreciate that this change is short notice and may inconvenience you but it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community.

If you have any questions or concerns about the start of the new term, please do not hesitate to get in touch via info@ormistonpark.org.uk (we will endeavour to reply as quickly as possible).

I have previously sent out this information and it is a reminder of how contact tracing will work over the Christmas break:

- **Between Friday 18th December through to Wednesday 23rd December**, the DfE advice is “for the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a student or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.” If this is the case then the parent/carer of the child or staff member must email the academy immediately on covid19@ormistonpark.org.uk clearly highlighting the following information within the email:

Name of person with COVID19 symptoms

Date of first symptoms

Type of symptoms

Date of test

Date of test result

Screenshot of test result

Last day in the academy

Contacts on the last 2 days in the academy at 1m for 1min+

Contacts on the last 2 days in the academy at 1.5-2m for 15min+

- **From Wednesday 23rd December through to 4th January**, the DfE advice is “school staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17th December, there should be no student contact tracing asked beyond Wednesday 23 December.” If a child has COVID19 symptoms over this time a test should be booked immediately and contact should be through NHS 119.

We look forward to seeing your child, either on-site or on Microsoft Teams from Tuesday 5th January. We will update you if we receive any further information from the Government over the Christmas break.

It continues to be an incredibly challenging time for everyone, and I am sure that we all have the same hopes for a more 'normal' 2021. We hugely appreciate your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation, and it continues to mean a great deal to know we have your ongoing support.

Please do keep safe and well, and I hope you all find time to enjoy the season.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Roessler



Principal

Ormiston Park Academy

All students have already been trained on how to use Microsoft Teams in case of this eventuality.

Here is a reminder to students how to access Microsoft Teams Teaching and below is a link to an instructional PowerPoint:

Logging onto Microsoft Teams

1. Go to search bar and type www.office.com
2. Click on sign in button
3. Enter your school e-mail address
4. Click on next
5. Enter the password for your e-mail address.
6. Press sign in then you can select if you want to stay signed in.
7. You will then be shown a series of icons. Click on the teams icon
8. If you cannot find it, you can search for teams in the search area.
9. You then just need to click on the calendar. This will show the classes you have been invited to.
10. When you are invited to a lesson, click on accept and it will then be added to your calendar.
11. At the time of the lesson, click on the join now tab and it will take you to the lesson.

<https://ormistonparkacademy.sharepoint.com/:p/s/TeamsTrainingforStudents/ESQurBOHXMxIrdAxmxxS1S4BUstJYN044fdff1H3oMKI2w?e=r0xtwg>