

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome my resilient Y11 students back to Ormiston Park Academy, and express how lovely it has been to see so many of you adjust very quickly to the new lockdown, and engage with your online learning. I appreciate that this is not an easy time for you and your loved ones, but I wanted to take this time to share with you personally how happy the whole Year 11 team are to have you back with us, albeit remotely.

Lessons began remotely on 5.1.21, and will continue to be delivered in this way until we receive further guidance from the government with regards to the reopening of schools. Although the Year 11s are familiar with Teams, having attended online lessons for the two weeks previous to the Christmas break, I would like to commend you all for adapting to these challenging circumstances in a mature and enthusiastic way, especially with the technical issues some of them may have experienced along the way. Thank you for your patience as students and parents/carers, while we have worked to resolve them for you.

If you do experience any further IT issues as listed below, please do contact the appropriate team.

Remote Learning IT Issues Support (Devices / Connectivity / Microsoft Teams etc)

OPARLSupport@ormistonpark.org.uk

Password reset:

cnkallo@ormistonpark.org.uk or your form tutors (please see email address below)

Participation and the School Day:

The feedback I have received from Year 11 subject teachers about your participation and engagement in the online lessons has been nothing but positive and I, as their Head of Year, could not be prouder of you all for your continued commitment to your studies in these challenging times.

The structure of the school day is slightly different now, with lessons being 40 minutes long instead of the normal one-hour session. This has been put in place with pupil wellbeing at the forefront of our minds, to enable students to have a break from their devices between lessons; stretch their legs and prepare for their next lesson. Lessons start promptly at 9am and finish at 2:40pm, I am confident that in the past two week, you are all trying your hardest to attend all of their sessions, I also understand in these circumstances that sometimes it is difficult to motivate your child for the day ahead and technology is not always on our side.

Please do not hesitate to contact the email above if your child experiences any difficulty accessing their online lessons as we are here to support them and you.

Attendance and the Importance of being in lessons:

Now that the majority of IT-related issues have been resolved, the expectation is that all students are attending all of their online lessons. For Y11 students, this is of huge importance due to the announcement that the Summer GCSE exams have been cancelled. Like all schools and colleges, we are still awaiting the details of how we will be able to base the decisions on your teacher assessed grades. If students are refusing to engage with their online learning, this could negatively impact their grades, just the same as poor attendance at school would impact your results in normal circumstances. With remote learning now being a crucial part of learning for all areas of education, including colleges and sixth forms, please also be aware that when colleges and sixth forms contact for your references, we have an obligation to provide accurate feedback on your attendance.

To ensure we can support all of our students, and no one is disadvantaged, please contact me or Mrs Thacker urgently if you are still unable to access your online lessons at home, and we will contact you to arrange for you to be in school accessing the lessons using a computer on-site, in a safe and socially distanced environment. This provision can only be offered to the students who have not remote learning access.

Learning Expectations:

The expectation for conduct in lesson and attendance to lessons remains the same as if you are in the Academy; teachers have the right to teach and students have the right to learn free of interruption or disturbance.

Registration and Assemblies:

As of Monday 18th January, form tutors will be delivering morning registration every Monday and Friday at 8:45am - 9:00am, so that they can be available to discuss and assist with any concerns you may be having. I will also be delivering live assemblies every Wednesday starting 20th January from 8:40am-9am, our assemblies will be focusing on preparations for your next steps after OPA. This will include information on how to research and apply to colleges and sixth forms.

Post Year 11 Options webinar, delivered by Make Happen on Wednesday 25th January:

Will explore the different options after year 11 including BTEC's, A Levels and Apprenticeships. Students will explore the difference between College and Sixth Form specifically those in the local area. This will include tips on researching different options and information on the best progression pathways through to specific goals. The session will also explore the application process for Sixth

Forms, Colleges and Apprenticeships. I do not want you to miss out on this experience because of the current circumstances we find ourselves in, so make sure to attend. Parents, please do encourage your child to attend every registration and assembly, as well as their online lessons.

Free school meals:

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, we will send vouchers directly to your email addresses via a company called Schoolvouchers.com, if your email details have changed then could you please update the Academy as soon as possible, so that we can get your vouchers to you promptly. We are currently waiting on the National Government scheme to commence and then we will work via this as we did in the first National lockdown.

Thank you both students and parents/careers for taking the time to read this. I'm sure you can appreciate this is an extremely uncertain and confusing time for all of us, however, your child's education and wellbeing is, as always, extremely important to me and my team. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries you may have and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

Head of Year: cnkallo@ormistonpark.org.uk

Deputy Head of Year: jyoung@ormistonpark.org.uk

Senior Leadership Link: sthacker@ormistonpark.org.uk

11.1 Mr Samuel: jsamuel@ormistonpark.org.uk

11.2 Miss Ryan: mryan@ormistonpark.org.uk

11.3 Mrs Shorey: tshorey@ormistonpark.org.uk

11.4 Mr Abena: fabena@ormistonpark.org.uk

11.5 Mrs Durant, Miss Gerke: adurant@ormistonpark.org.uk kgerk@ormistonpark.org.uk

11.6 Mrs Hewlett: khewlett@ormistonpark.org.uk

Yours Sincerely,

Chantal N'kallo

Head of Year 11