



Mayfield Messenger

Friday 1st January 2021

Head Teachers Message (Mr. David Jeapes)

Dear all,

I hope you and your family are well and have had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break.

You will be aware that the DfE has now confirmed that our Primary Section will open at the normal times from Monday 4th January 2021. However, the staggered start for Seniors has been pushed back by one week. Therefore, we will offer online teaching sessions (OTS) for all pupils in Years 7 to 11 from Monday 4th January. Please find attached to this issue some guidance around OTS and a timetable for the first week back.

During the week beginning Monday 11th January, we will continue to deliver OTS for pupils in Years 7 to 10 as well as on-site provision for the children of 'critical workers' and vulnerable pupils. However, we will welcome back Year 11 who will follow their normal timetable. Currently, we expect all pupils to return to onsite teaching from Monday 18th January, unless, of course, they are unwell or self-isolating.

During the above period, we have two exams scheduled for Year 11, both of which will take place:

- BTEC Music on Thursday 7th January (24 pupils);
- OCR Cambridge National Sports on Monday 11th January (40 pupils).

The two 'immersion' sessions planned to support the above will now run as an OTS on Wednesday 6th and Friday 8th January, respectively. The 'mock' IT examination for Year 11 planned for Friday 8th January will not run and will be moved to a later date. Also, please be aware that the Year 10 Core 'mocks' due to take place w/b Monday 11th January will be rescheduled. At this time, our intention is for all other Year 11 and Year 6 mock exams to run as planned, we will, of course, update you should we need to make any further adjustments. If you have any questions about our plans for running exams, then please do contact Mrs. Helen Patis, Exams Officer, on:

Patis@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

In line with the direction from the Government, we are currently setting up a "rapid testing facility" within the school. This provision will allow us to test asymptomatic pupils (ie those not presenting any symptoms) to see if they are in fact infected with COVID 19. We appreciate that you will have a number of questions about this. Please find attached to this issue of the Mayfield Messenger a:

- letter to explain more about 'lateral flow tests'
- link to an e-form to register and give (or withhold) consent.

Please note that you should still complete the e-form even if you wish to withhold consent and that those who have already given their consent via SIMS Parent App, will still need to complete the e-form (apology).

During this difficult time we understand that some families may be experiencing emotional or financial distress. If you would like to access discrete and confidential help, then please contact Mrs. Erika Anders on:

AndersE@mayfield.portsmouth.sch.uk

Finally, I appreciate that many pupils and parents may feel quite apprehensive about the return to school in light of the recent spike in cases and the reclassification of Portsmouth as a “Tier 4” area. Please rest assured that we continue to implement all of our stringent procedures to minimise the spread of infection within the school.

I hope you have a pleasant weekend and thank you for taking the time to read this update.

Mr. David Jeapes
Headteacher