



Tel: 01254 231553



Thursday, 28 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you are all keeping well and that this second lockdown is not proving too difficult for you and your families/friends. We write to update you on the ever-changing school issues, happenings and events.

Live lessons

We are pleased to report the success of the delivery of live, online lessons for our students, and the associated increasing levels of student engagement. However, we do appreciate that there are still some difficulties being faced by some students, especially in terms of access to suitable devices and poor internet connection.

Where these remain a concern, we encourage you to let us know, so that we can do our best to address the difficulties you face. We certainly believe that no child should be disadvantaged as a result of lockdown.

Furthermore, in line with the live delivery of lessons we have attached a questionnaire for completion in the hope that we can use your feedback to tweak our approach so as to meet the varying needs of all our students.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/>

DFE laptop delivery

In connection with the above we are pleased to be able to inform you that we have just received a further 18 laptops from the DFE and believe that once these laptops have been distributed, all our students will be able to access live lessons, be it in school or at home, which is fantastic news.



Online behaviour and supporting your child at home

The conduct of many students has been very good, however a handful of students have not followed the rules and on occasion been quite disrespectful to their teachers and peers. Therefore, can we please ask you to remind your child of the need to follow the online rules, especially in the area of inappropriate postings on the chat function of Teams. If you can help your child to follow their normal morning routine so that they are awake and ready for their first lesson this would also be very much appreciated.

Lateral Flow Testing Programme

We continue with our lateral flow testing programme and the routine testing of staff twice weekly as the revised guidelines state. However, following a directive from Government, serial testing for close contacts has been postponed on a national basis. Please can we encourage parents/carers of students who attend the main site, to complete and return to school, the associated testing forms as soon as possible if this has not already been done. Furthermore, if you would like your child to be tested weekly please do let us know.

Assemblies

This Friday will see the launch of our first 'Good News Assembly' which will allow us to come together as a community to share in all the successes and achievements of our students. These assemblies will take place on a weekly basis between 11.15am and 11.30am and we hope very much that you will be able to join us.

Wellbeing Support

We know that this time lockdown is proving harder than ever for both students and their families/carers and as such we have put together a bank of wellbeing and safeguarding resources that may just offer you the support you need. They can be found by following this link;

<https://www.oswaldtwistle.org/parents-guardians>

In addition, please do not forget that our mentors and key workers are available all week to help and support your child and yourselves if so required. We feel that it is in everyone's best interests that we work together as a community through this Pandemic.

National Tutoring Programme

We are in a fortunate position to be able to offer free tuition to a number of our students, courtesy of the National Tutoring Programme and would like to hear from any parent/carer who feels that their child may benefit from this offer, especially parents and carers of year 11 students. It includes 1:1 tuition with a highly skilled tutor over a 15 week period in an agreed subject area. Interested parents/carers should contact our Deputy Headteacher Mr Paul Bridge in the first instance.

Year 11 students and the awarding of GCSE grades.

The DFE consultation period for the approach to assessing GCSE grades comes to an end on Friday this week and as such the definitive approach to the issuing of GCSE grades will soon be finalised. Given the content of the consultation document it does appear that once again a student's grade will be based on their teacher's assessment of the standard of work being produced by the student.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953000/6743-1_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_grades_should_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf

It is our belief that some form of internal assessment will have to be carried out that will then be externally moderated. If students are to be awarded the grades they deserve and need to move on to their desired destination upon leaving Oswaldtwistle school, it is vital that all year 11 students engage with their learning between now and the beginning of June, especially in Maths and English.

In closing, can we thank you for your ongoing support during this difficult time and remind you that we are keen to help you in regard to your child's wellbeing and learning. We will be in touch soon, and until then take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Sandra McKenna
Acting Head Teacher