



Wednesday, 20 October  
2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

With only a couple of days to go before we break for half term we would like to bring you up to date with all our exciting news. However, before we embark on this we would like to say a big thank you to everyone for continuing to guard so effectively against Covid – 19. We are certain that your actions in this area have helped support a relatively virus free few months at school which in turn has seen our young people once again participating in a variety of trips and other school related activities.

#### **Year 11 work experience**

Since the end of September, the majority of our year 11 students have been out and about enjoying the world of work, thanks to the support of local businesses. From electrical work to child care duties in a local nursery our students have proved eager and keen to participate and we have enjoyed hearing about their many successes. We are hoping to extend many of the placements in an attempt to keep our students in touch with the world of work.

#### **KS3 trip to the Science & Industry Museum, Manchester.**

As part of our Careers and STEM programme some of our KS3 pupils travelled to Manchester and enjoyed the wonders and excitement of the city's science and industry museum. It was a culturally rich day that allowed for many new experiences.

#### **Parent 'drop in' morning**

The first of these sessions was held this month and allowed for parents/carers to chat about their interests and thoughts in a relaxed manner over a cup of coffee. This will be a regular feature during the course of the year, taking place on the first Thursday morning in every month. A text will be circulated at the start of the week to remind you of the event as we hope to meet with as many parents as possible during the course of the year; as partners we value your thoughts and ideas.



### **World Mental Health Day**

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October we celebrated World Mental Health day with form time activities and sausage sandwiches for both staff and students. It was a great success and certainly lifted everyone's spirits. A linked assembly also gave students an opportunity to engage with some of the issues surrounding mental health.

### **Amazing Accrington Careers Fair**

Our year 11 students headed off to the Accrington Town Hall last week to participate in a local Futures Event Careers fair where they were introduced to the opportunities available to them upon leaving school at the end of the year. It was a highly successful morning that led to high levels of engagement as the students wandered the stalls with their fellow year 11 students from neighbouring schools.

### **Guest speakers**

Our alternative curriculum day earlier this week featured Corporal Andy Reid MBE. He spoke about his life in the army, the setbacks he has faced and the unbelievable achievements he's secured. Everyone was captivated by his truly inspirational speech which led to many interesting questions being asked at the end of the talk.

A Professional Youth Worker from the local Target Youth Support Service is also scheduled to visit school later this week to speak to our students about Child Criminal Exploitation.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Covid -19 and Flu vaccination opportunities**

As you are more than likely aware schools are facilitating the Covid vaccination process for children aged between 12 and 15 in line with government guidelines. As such we are expecting a team of health professionals to visit us on 19<sup>th</sup> November to deliver this service. Further details will be shared with you after half term once the vaccination team has contacted the school with further information. Similarly, we will also be facilitating the Flu vaccination process for our students on 10<sup>th</sup> December, once again information relating to this will be shared nearer to the time.

#### **Year 11 mock exams**

There will be 2 waves of mock exams this year, the first wave will take place during week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> November, with a second wave taking place a lot later in February. Can we ask that you support your child with any preparation for these exams as although the government fully intends to run with the exam season this academic year, one never knows what may happen so mock results are still potentially very important if internal assessments are used in any way to help determine outcomes for students this year.

Before we sign off please can we remind you that school closes for half term on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October and reopens again on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We wish you all a happy and safe half term break.

Kind regards,

The Oswaldtwistle School Staff