



OLD BUCKENHAM
HIGH SCHOOL

Be the best we can be

26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the most extraordinary term, I very much hope that school closures due to Covid are a thing of the past. Over the last three weeks a sense of normality has returned to our school and I look forward to the Summer term when we can get back to our core business of providing an excellent education to all. I have attached a link to the parent survey and I would appreciate you filling it in as your feedback is of enormous importance to us.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=v6-dBbdWh0-RSFvJSr2jtesR38nkaR5Gq0Mvd7IrfxURVRNNFhCM0FOVIZBVE84NDZNVVpVUUNNSC4u>

Assessments

During the return to school, we were very mindful to support students and not overburden them with assessments. However, we do need to establish if and where there are gaps in learning and set out below is our approach in different year groups.

Years 7-10

After Easter students will undertake class assessments in most subjects. This will enable teachers to plan and adapt the curriculum. Students will receive personal learning checklists which will be used in independent learning time and at home to help address any specific gaps in knowledge and understanding. Prior to Easter, a report will be published focusing on the quality of work undertaken in lessons (work produced) and attitude to learning (A2L). A full report including assessment outcomes will be published towards the end of the first half of the Summer term. Year 10s will be assessed on the work covered in the Spring term in the first two weeks after Easter. These assessments will vary depending on the specific subject and students have received personal learning checklists from their teachers in order to plan any revision required.

Year 11

As you are aware, this year students will not be undertaking final examinations in June. Instead, their subject teachers will look at their whole body of work over their KS4 learning to assign a grade. To ensure that we have the most up to date and relevant evidence to draw upon, teachers have planned assessments that assesses the curriculum that they have been taught. This week Year 11 students started assessments in earnest, and will continue to sit assessments after the Easter break until the end of the first half of the Summer term. It is important that over the Easter break students take time to relax and prepare themselves for this assessment period. Subject teachers have supplied revision resources and personal learning checklists to help structure students' revision over this period. We will continue to update you and the students on how and when individual assessments will take place as we finalise arrangements.

Covid Arrangements and Testing

The current arrangements that are in place with regard to keeping the school as safe as possible will continue after Easter. New lateral flow tests have been issued to students and it is vital to keep testing at home twice a week throughout the Easter holidays with a test being undertaken on the last Sunday of the holidays. The DfE guidance states that if a student tests positive within 72 hours of a school



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closure, which is Sunday, please inform the Headteacher at head@obhs.co.uk. On return to school students will continue to wear face coverings in enclosed areas, including classrooms, with the exception of those who have a valid medical exemption. Due to the cost of PPE to the school, we will be asking for a voluntary donation of 50p for students who forget or lose their own. All of our Covid safety measures are under review and will change when and if the guidance from the Department of Education or Trust is amended.

Aerosols

Asthma is a relatively common and can be a very serious condition, and the use of deodorant aerosol sprays can trigger asthmatic attacks. During the past week we have had cases where a member of staff has had such a reaction. For the safety of staff and students, aerosols including deodorant sprays will not be allowed in school as from the 12th April. Students who wish to use a deodorant may use the roll on or stick versions.

House Names

The Senior Senate have undertaken a significant amount of work looking at how our school can more fully represent the current student body. They felt that the House names were outdated and did not reflect the areas of importance for young people. After extensive consultation, the Senior Senate have proposed we change the House names to ones which reflect the diversity of Britain in the 21st century. This proposal has the support of the School Council and Local Governing Body and the details can be found in the Spring edition of the Gazette.

Wisepay

Our cashless catering will no longer support any student purchasing food without credit and we are following up any existing overspends. However, we do realise that in some circumstances students do not have enough credit to purchase food. In these circumstances, Student Reception will ensure students are provided with an adequate lunch.

Comic Relief and Allotment

I am very pleased with the amount raised during Red Nose Day. We now are able to purchase a polytunnel for the allotment.

Finally, you will be receiving a copy of the Spring edition of the Gazette. I do hope you get time to read it as it reflects all the hard work undertaken by our school making sure we are the best we can be.

Have a relaxing Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Fell
Headteacher

