

SSC/kb

18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

My last communication with you as the Headteacher of Ousedale School.

It has been an emotional week amongst the storm which is Covid. Thank you for all your emails, cards and presents - much appreciated. As I said in Ousenews, I wish you a safe and happy Christmas. The carol service was great - thank you to all your children for taking part, I felt honoured to have been part of it.

As the time comes to step down I return now to more practical matters.

The number of Covid cases has increased this week as more people get tested. A reminder to use the Covid email covidpositivereporting@ousedale.org.uk, just to report positive cases. Over the weekend Mr McFadden and Miss Rickard are on duty and on Monday it is Mrs Hughes and Miss Penny. We will then put an automated response on the email, but Mr Glover and myself will be monitoring it over the holiday and will get in touch if we need to. Please count your isolation days carefully.

All the best,
Sue Carbert

From the new Acting Headteacher:

By now I am sure you will have seen or heard the latest announcement from the Department of Education regarding a 'staggered return' for secondary school in January and are offering additional coronavirus testing from the 4th January. This is to help deliver the national priority of keeping as many students and teachers as possible in school beyond the start of term, minimising the spread of the virus and disruption caused by coronavirus cases arising in educational settings. There will be a change to the start of term:

- Monday, 4th January 2021 will be an extra INSET day to allow us to prepare to deliver the testing. No students will attend school on this day and there will be no on-line lessons;
- Years 7,8, 9 and 10 will not attend school for the week commencing the 4th January 2021 but will be provided with on-line lessons;
- If your child is struggling to access lessons, or you have any welfare concerns, please email their PAL and/or the SENDCO at the appropriate campus;

- Years 11 & 12 should attend on Tuesday 5th January 2021 onwards. Year 12 just when they have lessons;
- Year 13 trial exams will follow the planned timetable, with the **exception** of Monday, 4th January where the exams will now take place on Monday, 18th January;
- All students will return to school on 11th January 2021.

This is not an ideal situation but I thank you for your understanding, support & patience regarding this matter. We are waiting for updates from the government regarding how the testing will work in schools and once I have that information we will then inform you of how that process will function in school.

Regards,
Stuart Glover