

SG/kb

13th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are safe and well at this time. On a positive note, we have only had six positive cases since the start of term and none of those cases have been in school. A number of staff have completed the training for conducting lateral flow tests in school and we are looking to start testing staff and students, who are in school, from next week. A letter will be sent to parents/carers of those students attending school to see whether you would like to consent to your son/daughter being tested in school.

It has been a week since all lessons moved to remote delivery and, apart from a few technical problems, they are going very well. I know home learning can be hugely challenging, depending on your own particular home circumstances, but please do let the relevant staff know of any issues arising with accessing any lessons at home and we will try to support you and students as much as possible.

Thank you for the many positive emails regarding the on-line provision it is greatly appreciated and of course it is always good for staff to hear that they are doing an excellent job. Staff have also been hugely impressed with the engagement of the majority of students in lessons. Just a reminder that staff will teach live lessons for all classes following their usual timetable, now also including additional literacy classes and SEND workshops. Live lessons will be approximately 50 minutes long with a mixture of face to face learning and tasks for students to complete. Whilst students are working independently to apply and practice their learning, the teacher will be available by microphone or by use of the chat function to provide support. Resources to support live lessons will be posted on google classroom. Students who are attending school are doing well and accessing all of their lessons on-line as well.

There will be further guidance coming out early next week for each key stage regarding practical subjects, homework and marking and we have taken into consideration the amount of screen time students are being exposed to. To help support you and the students could you please remind your sons/daughters that they must attend all lessons on time and a register will be completed by each class teacher. The school behaviour and rewards system still apply to all on-line lessons.

Further guidance will be sent out regarding KS3 assessments this half term; at present we have no further guidance about the Year 11 and 13 exams. A reminder please that it is the 6th Form virtual open evening on Thursday night at 6.00 pm and we are looking to hold a Year 11 virtual achievement awards evening on 11th February. We will continue to provide, as best as we can, the school calendar events on-line.

As you will be aware, last term the school launched an online version of the ASPIRE programme. All students can access the platform through their Google Classroom account where they can engage in a range of materials that are designed to stretch and probe their understanding. This includes podcasts, academic videos and talks that cover a range of topics outside the normal curriculum. There is also a 'live' lesson schedule, where staff are delivering lessons about a topic of their choice – I know that Mr Bolzon's Italian lesson was very popular! Recently we have added another feature where students can access lectures presented by external speakers – you may have seen the lecture on particle physics last night.

Our Careers department are available to offer support with post 16 or post 18 options; this can include help with further or higher education including sixth form, college and university. There are a number of support mechanisms in place including advice and guidance via email or phone, specific Career google classrooms for each year group, Apprenticeship google classrooms for Yr11 and Yr13 students, these include live vacancies and access to Unifrog, our Careers platform, for all. The Careers Team have just launched a new virtual work experience booklet that highlights a number of opportunities, this will be made available to students next week. If students would like to speak to one of the Careers team, please email careers@ousedale.org.uk and they will be happy to help.

The Government are running a scheme that temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that students can access remote education without disruption. As a school we can request mobile data increases for students who meet all of the following criteria:

- Do not have a fixed broadband at home;
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices;
- Are experiencing disruption to their face to face education.

If you believe you meet all of the above criteria please email tracy.lutt@ousedale.org.uk for further information

Thank you for your continued support, especially with your sons/daughters home learning, and thank you for your support of all the staff.

Kind regards,



Stuart Glover
Acting Headteacher