

SG/kb

29th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all well and healthy and had a chance to enjoy the snow at the beginning of the week. It made a change to the rain!

I am pleased to say that there has only been one confirmed positive case in the past week and no doubt you will have seen earlier in the week the Prime Minister confirmed that it will not be possible to increase the number of students attending schools immediately after the February half term. Instead, he indicated that the earliest the Government believes it will be safe to begin to increase student numbers will be from Monday, 8th March. While there remains too many unknowns to be able to say with certainty that schools will begin to bring back more groups of students on that date, it does at least provide a degree of clarity in the short term. Once we have more details, which should be two weeks prior to some or all students returning, I will share those with you. In the meantime our remote learning and in-school provision will continue after half term.

Our on-line provision continues to be reviewed and improved and the school met with the parents/teachers association (PTA) this week. They were very positive and appreciative of the lessons staff are providing and the support students are getting. They raised the possibility of more activities away from the screen and more creative activities, which we will have a look at. They also raised the question about providing some additional support for parents/carers who may be anxious about the lack of social interaction their children are having. Again we will look at what extra guidance can be provided, but if you do have any concerns, please inform your tutor and/or PAL. The response to the Amazon wish list has been fantastic and the PTA are going to re-launch this once students return to school. They are also looking at gathering uniform donations with specific stands being set up in the Willen Hospice charity shops. I would like to thank the members of the PTA for their continued support.

Could I remind you to ensure that your sons/daughters must attend their year group assemblies and PSHE lesson Friday period 5. This is an important time for the year group and tutor groups to come together to hear important messages and it is also an opportunity for them to socially interact and engage with important activities that will help support them with their health and wellness. Both very important factors during this time.

So far there have been 340 students who have registered a 6th form application for September, which is excellent! A reminder that the deadline for submitting applications is 11th February. If you need any further guidance regarding the process, please use one of the links below to the 6th Form FAQs:

<https://www.ousedale.org.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-virtual-open-evening>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fIOI4DKFoU&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.facebook.com/Ousedale-171090860031981>

The virtual Year 11 Achievement Awards will take place in the last week of term and 180 awards will be presented to students. Students will receive academic, pastoral, silver ties and community awards. If your son/daughter is receiving an award you will receive an invite shortly. It is always a highlight of the school calendar but it is a shame they cannot be presented face to face.

A reminder that the school will be closed, both on-line and physically, on Friday, 12th February as this is a staff training day, and that the school will be closed over the February half-term, and will not be open to students who have been attending. Staff, students and parents/carers will need a well-earned break.

Enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Glover', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stuart Glover
Acting Headteacher