

Dear Parent/Carer(s)

I hope you have all managed to have a safe and healthy festive break.

By now I am sure you will have seen or heard the latest announcement from the Department of Education regarding a change to the 'staggered return' for secondary schools in 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.

It is not an ideal situation and I apologise that students will not be starting school as per usual next week but unfortunately, there have been 85 positive cases since the start of the holiday, including 13 staff who tested positive so the extension to the 'staggered return' will hopefully help slow down the rate of infection in the community and in school.

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for the start of term. However, please be aware there may be slight changes to these arrangements if there are any further announcements from the government.

- **Monday, 4th January 2021 will remain** an extra INSET day to allow SLT to prepare to deliver the mass testing. No students will attend school on this day and there will be no on-line lessons.
- **Tuesday, 5th January – Friday 8th January.** No students will attend school this week, except for a small number of key worker and vulnerable students and only if they have had a negative COVID-19 test. **There will be on-line lessons for all year groups. New KS3 timetables will be sent out by parent mail on Monday with details about on-line lessons for all year groups.**
- **For the week beginning Monday 11th January Years 11 & 13 only and a small number of key worker and vulnerable students will attend school this week and only if they have had a negative COVID-19 test.** All other year groups will continue to have on-line lessons.
- **All students will return to school on 18th January. All students MUST have had a negative test before attending school. Please email your PAL your child's negative test.**
- **Year 11 & 13 students MUST get a test the week commencing 4th January.**
- **Years 7,8,9,10 & 12 MUST get a test the week commencing 11th January.**
- If your child is struggling to access lessons and/or you have any welfare concerns and/or you are a key worker please e mail your child's PAL and/or the SENDCO at the appropriate campus.
- Further information regarding on-line learning, Year 13 mock exams, mass testing in school and consent forms will follow next week.

It is a shame that my first parent mail to you regards more disruption to the start of a term and students not attending school but it is an honour and a privilege, regardless of the situation, to be the Acting Headteacher of Ousedale School. I look forward to working with you and ensuring that the high standards and expectations that have been established will remain, whether students are in school or attending lessons on-line. Staff, as always, will continue to work tirelessly to ensure students are safe as possible in school and continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning. Thank you once again for your support and enjoy seeing in the new year tonight and let's hope for a 'better, brighter, happier and safer New Year'. Stay safe and healthy.

Regards

Stuart Glover

Acting Headteacher