

1st January 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of all the staff at OSA, I would like to wish each of our families a very Happy New Year. The last year has been an incredibly challenging time for so many people across the world, however I am exceptionally proud of our whole school community for the resilience, determination and unity shown and the dedication of our staff who have continually adapted their efforts to support all our students during the often difficult and unpredictable circumstances.

Whilst I would not usually send a Bulletin during the holidays, or indeed on New Year's Day, we are currently working through extraordinary times and I have important information to share with you following the Government's latest announcement this week regarding the expectations for schools in England.

As you are probably aware, the announcement detailed an extension to the staggered start to the new term, with additional time for schools to implement a mass testing programme on-site.



Exam years previously due to return to school next week are now expected to return on Monday 11th January, followed by all other year groups on Monday 18th January. Remote learning will be provided via Google Classroom whilst students are not on site.



I have also taken the decision to add an INSET Day on Tuesday 5th January so that staff can plan, train and prepare effectively for these late changes to our teaching and testing provisions. Remote learning will be provided for students in Years 10-13 via Google Classroom on this day.



On-site provision will be available for children of critical workers and vulnerable students throughout this period of remote learning from Wednesday 6th January, if registered to attend (see below).

A full summary of our return to school arrangements is detailed on page 2. Please contact us at admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk if you have any queries regarding the arrangements.

CHILDREN OF CRITICAL WORKERS AND VULNERABLE STUDENTS

In December, we contacted all our registered key worker and supported families to offer them the opportunity to book on-site provision for their child during the first week of term. This on-site provision will now commence on **Wednesday 6th January**, following INSET Days at the start of the week.

Due to the changes to the start of term, we will be asking parents to re-book via a new survey for both affected weeks, 6th to 8th January and 11th to 15th January. The new booking survey will be sent to our registered families shortly.

If you are a critical worker whose child needs to attend school and you have not already registered this with us, please email admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk and we will contact you to make arrangements for their provision.

START OF TERM SUMMARY

Updated start of term plans are detailed below:

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 4 TH JANUARY 2021	
Mon 4 th	➤ INSET Day – school site closed for all students.
Tue 5 th	➤ Additional INSET Day – school site closed for all students. ➤ Remote work will be provided for students in Years 10-13 via Google Classroom.
Wed 6 th – Fri 8 th	➤ On-site provision for children of critical workers and vulnerable students (place must be registered beforehand). ➤ Remote work will be provided for all other students in Years 7-13 via Google Classroom.
Exams	➤ Wed 6 th Jan – Y13 BTEC Business public exam will go ahead on-site at school* – refer to details on page 3. ➤ Thu 7 th Jan – Y10 BTEC Music public exam will go ahead on-site at school* – refer to details on page 3. ➤ Fri 8 th Jan – Y10 BTEC Business mock exam will go ahead remotely – refer to details on page 3.

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 11 TH JANUARY 2021	
Mon 11 th – Fri 15 th	➤ On-site provision for children of critical workers / vulnerable students (place must be registered beforehand). ➤ On-site provision for students in Years 11 and 13. ➤ Remote work will be provided for all other students via Google Classroom.
Exams	➤ Tue 12 th Jan – Y12 OCR Sport and BTEC Business public exams will go ahead on-site at school* – refer to details on page 3. ➤ Wed 13 th Jan – Y10 BTEC Business mock exam will go ahead remotely – refer to details on page 3.
Events	➤ Y10 Parents' Evening will go ahead remotely on Tue 12 th Jan – refer to details on the top right of this page.

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 18 TH JANUARY 2021	
Mon 18 th	➤ On-site provision due to re-start for all students.
Exams	➤ Mon 18 th – Y13 OCR Sport public exam will go ahead on-site at school*.

We will continue to act in accordance with latest official Government guidance and will update you if any further changes to these arrangements are necessary. A reminder to contact us at admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk if you have any queries regarding these arrangements.

* If your son/daughter or anyone in the household/bubble has tested positive for COVID-19, or need to self-isolate, they must not attend the exam on-site at the school – please inform us urgently ASAP in this scenario.

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

Year 10 Parents' Evening will go ahead as planned via video consultation service.

Tuesday 12th January 2021

Approximately 50% of Year 10 families have already booked, so we urge all remaining parents to make appointments as soon as possible.

Please refer to the email sent in December for details of how to book, or email us at admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk if you need help to book.

TECHNOLOGY DEVICES / ACCESS



We have been working hard to ensure that every child in the school can access Google Classroom and the internet at home on a device that allows them to complete any work set effectively.

However, we know that sometimes new tech issues arise. Please use the link below to let us know if your child has any issues which means they can't access work set for them on Google Classroom:

<https://forms.gle/84Nu8Uo1GJ3VVKv46>

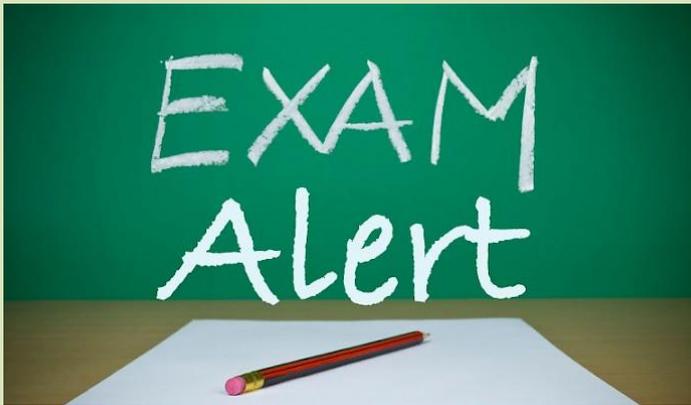
FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Students eligible for Free School Meals will be able to come in to school and pick up a packed lunch each day they are at home during the period of remote learning.

A survey will be sent out to eligible families at the start of next week so they can indicate if they would like to take up this option.

KS4 EXAMS



YEAR 10 BTEC MUSIC



The public exam for Year 10 BTEC Music will go ahead as planned on Thursday 7th January. Students should arrive in school by 8.45am at the latest for a 9am start.

A final-week revision programme for Music students will be posted on Google Classroom from Sunday 3rd January and a pre-exam preparation session will be offered by Mr. Bloska on Wednesday 6th January. Students will be informed about this by email.

After their on-site exam, students may be offered the opportunity to receive a Covid-19 test, as part of the in-school testing programme, if consent is in place.

YEAR 10 BTEC BUSINESS



The mock exams for Year 10 BTEC Business on Friday 8th January and Wednesday 13th January will be held remotely via video link.

Year 10 Business students will be contacted via email with details of how to take part.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS



As the Government decision continues to be that Year 11 exams will go ahead this summer, we intend to keep our second round of Year 11 mock exams in place this coming February, from Monday 1st to Friday 12th February inclusive.

An assembly will be released to Year 11 students on Wednesday 6th January, setting out revision expectations for the coming weeks. We will continue to review this decision in light of government guidance and will let families know if anything changes.

If you have any queries regarding any of the arrangements for exams, please contact us at the school:

✉ admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk

KS5 EXAMS

Year 12 BTEC Business and OCR Sport students will be invited into school via email for a face-to-face revision session prior to their exam on Tuesday 12th January.

YEAR 12 BTEC BUSINESS



The public exam for Year 12 BTEC Business will go ahead at school as planned on Tuesday 12th January.

Times and locations already provided remain unchanged. Students should arrive at school 15 minutes before the exam.

YEAR 12 OCR SPORT



The public exam for Year 12 OCR Sport will go ahead at school as planned on Tuesday 12th January.

Times and locations already provided remain unchanged. Students should arrive at school 15 minutes before the exam.

YEAR 13 BTEC BUSINESS



The public exam for Year 13 BTEC Business will go ahead at school as planned on Wednesday 6th January.

Times and locations already provided remain unchanged. Students should arrive at school 15 minutes before the exam.

Students must ensure they have emailed their notes to Miss Ring 24 hours before this exam.

After their on-site exams, students may be offered the opportunity to receive a Covid-19 test, as part of the in-school testing programme, if consent is in place.

YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS



Year 13 mock examinations due to start on Monday 4th January will no longer take place in the first week.

These mocks will now take place a week later than originally scheduled. Teachers will provide supported revision sessions for students next week.

Students should check their emails for a message from Mrs Flint that provides more specific details about the timetable and other logistical issues.

REMOTE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS



Remote learning expectations for students not attending provision on-site at school will be sent out at the start of next week following our INSET planning sessions.

NHS TEST AND TRACE: COVID-19 TESTING FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate from the week commencing 4th January 2021. An instructional leaflet with some more information is attached on the following page.

[If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the registration form and consent statement that will be emailed to you separately at the start of next week.](#)

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. Testing will be offered free of charge.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The school should be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home, or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During the waiting time for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they and the household/bubble will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TEST IS NEGATIVE?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

WHAT IF A CLOSE CONTACT AT SCHOOL TESTS POSITIVE?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if they would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, they can.

WHAT IF MY CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.



We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01707 264228 or email us at admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk



I hope this Bulletin provides sufficient detail to help you with your planning over the first few weeks of the new term. By working together, we will be able to deliver a safe and inspirational learning environment for everyone. Thank you for your support and once again, Happy New Year to you all.

David Bullock, Headteacher

HOW TO DO YOUR TEST

WHILE THIS IS A SELF-SWAB TEST, THERE WILL BE A TESTING HELPER WHO WILL OVERSEE THINGS AND PROVIDE HELP IF YOU NEED

1



YOUR COVID-19 TEST WILL BE SCHEDULED. IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, YOUR PARENT / CARER WILL HAVE CONSENTED

2



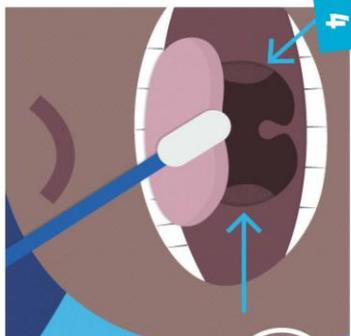
YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU

3



BLOW YOUR NOSE IF NEEDED. WASH AND DRY/SANITISE YOUR HANDS. REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE SOFT PART

4



10 SECS

OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND USE A MIRROR TO LOOK AT THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT. THEN USE THE SWAB TO RUB FIRMLY 4 TIMES ON EACH SIDE

5



REMOVE THE SWAB CAREFULLY WITHOUT TOUCHING YOUR TEETH, TONGUE OR GUMS

6



GENTLY PLACE IT ABOUT 2-2.5 CM INSIDE ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS. ROLL THE SWAB 4-5 TIMES ALONG THE LINING OF THE NOSTRIL. THIS WILL TAKE 10-15 SECONDS

7

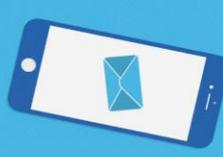
AFTER THIS, YOU'RE DONE, GENTLY REMOVE THE SWAB BEING CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANYTHING TOUCH THE TIP

8



YOUR SWAB CAN THEN BE PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING, THIS TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES

9



YOUR SCHOOL / COLLEGE WILL CONTACT YOU OR YOUR PARENT / CARER WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT