

7th January 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am exceptionally proud of the approach our students have taken to their online learning provision so far this week – the level of engagement, resilience and creativity has been excellent. I would also like to thank our staff who have adapted so quickly and diligently to this new way of working during these incredibly challenging times.

As you will be aware from the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 4th January 2021, the country has been placed back into national lockdown and therefore the 'Start of Term Summary' in my previous Bulletin on New Year's Day can no longer apply.

School remains open for registered children of critical workers and vulnerable students. All other students will learn remotely until February half-term (Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021).



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 so that we can contact you regarding their provision.

For full details of the national lockdown, please refer to the following website:



<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

KEY CONTACTS DURING LOCKDOWN

A reminder of key contacts and resources:



General / School Work Enquiries	 01707 264228  admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk (Emails will be forwarded to relevant faculties)
Tech Support	 osatech@onslow.herts.sch.uk (Support for OSA systems / online resources)
SEN Support	 DPowell@onslow.herts.sch.uk
Report Illness	 admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk / attendance@onslow.herts.sch.uk (We will be tracking student engagement, so please inform us if your child is unable to complete work)
Safeguarding	 safeguarding@onslow.herts.sch.uk (Please do not attach images to this address)  01707 264228  0300 123 4043 (Hertfordshire Children's Services)  101 (Police non-emergency)  999 (Police emergency)
School Website	 https://onslow.herts.sch.uk/

COVID-19 TESTING



I am pleased to confirm that we were able to implement our on-site COVID-19 testing facility ready for the first day of term and were able to complete lateral flow tests (where consent was provided), for all vulnerable students, children of key workers and staff on the school site.

A huge thanks to Mrs Casotti for co-ordinating this entire process and to our team of dedicated staff that supported with the planning, implementation, set-up, testing, processing, recording and cleaning involved.

We will continue to provide regular testing for the students and staff attending school during this national lockdown (where consent is in place), for the safety of everyone on site, and in turn, the wider community.

A reminder that this testing programme is for people attending the school site with no symptoms. Nobody with COVID-19 symptoms may attend the school site.

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>.



REMOTE LEARNING

The **Student Remote Learning Policy** applicable to all schools within the Danes Educational Trust is available on the following website page:

 <https://www.daneseducationaltrust.org.uk/574/public-policies>

Please review this with your son/daughter, along with the below reminder of expectations for remote learning:

	Get up as though you were going to school.
	Remember that the school day starts at 8.40am. Log into Google Classroom to check what work has been set for you.
  	Follow your normal timetable. ✓ KS3 teachers will let you know if they are going to be 'live' on Google Meet by putting a message on the class stream. ✓ KS4/5 teachers will expect you to log into Google Meet at the beginning of every lesson to hear an explanation of the task.
	Complete the work set for each lesson and then 'submit' via Google Classroom to confirm it has been done, even if the work was an Oak Academy lesson or a Hegarty Maths session, for example.
	If you share a laptop and are unable to attend a Google Meet, let your teacher know by emailing from a phone (or use the phone to join the Google Meet, if possible).
	If you are joining a Google Meet, ensure you are appropriately dressed and in a suitable location.
	It is your responsibility to let us know if you are unable to log in, have any technical issues or you are unable to complete something. Remember, we can't help if we don't know!
	Be mindful that teachers may not be able to respond immediately if contacted outside of the lesson time as they will be teaching other lessons.



Finally, as parent/carers, please do let us know via admin@onslow.herts.sch.uk if there are any general queries or concerns, and a reminder to complete the technology survey if your child has any issues accessing a device, a system or the internet. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

EXAM UPDATE



I am sure you will either have seen or heard the announcement this week from the Secretary of State for Education regarding GCSE, A level and AS Level exams this summer. The key elements from his announcement are as follows:

“ I can confirm that GCSEs, A levels and AS level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we’re going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms.”

“ The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards, and teaching representative organisations I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher assessed grades with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently across the country.”

Unfortunately, it is clear from this announcement that we will not have any further details to share with you for at least the next couple of weeks as the consultation process with Ofqual and the education sector takes place.

This is very unsettling for your child and you at an exceptionally difficult time. Currently, no one at the school is able to discuss or answer questions about teacher assessment in relation to GCSE and A level exams, so please do not raise individual enquiries to teachers regarding grades, processes or potential outcomes. [We will of course contact all parents of applicable students when we have more details.](#)

Mr Bird, Mrs Flint and I held assemblies with Year 11 and Year 13 students this week to clarify that their attitude and level of engagement with the remote learning set by their teachers will play a key role in awarding their Centre Assessed Grades.

We are fortunate that Year 11 students have already undertaken their first set of mock exams and will have a second set of mock exams in February.

Year 13 students are due to begin their assessments next week and Mrs Flint has already written to relevant parents with information. These will be completed remotely and we will amend the assessment schedule once we have received further guidance from Ofqual and the Department for Education.

The statement below from Simon Lebus, Interim Chief Regulator at Ofqual, echoes and reinforces this vital message:

“ We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It’s important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment.”

We will continue to do everything we can to support your child as they face this disruption to their education. Thank you for your continued help in ensuring they attend their lessons virtually so that we can educate them remotely.

GOOGLE MEET CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS



Google Classroom

- ✓ Log in to Google Classroom and click on the [Google Meet](#) link for your class.
- ✓ [Have your camera and microphone off when you join.](#)
- ✓ Teachers may ask you to use the ‘Raise a Hand’ or ‘Chat’ functions so that you can participate within the class. They may also ask you to ‘unmute’ in order to join in with a discussion.
- ✓ Please let your teacher know if you can’t make a session, with a reason why.
- ✓ [Excellent behaviour is expected at all times.](#) A member of SLT will be called to join the class if poor behaviour is noted.

The current situation has changed rapidly in light of continually changing guidance. We will endeavour to keep parents updated as quickly as possible wherever necessary. If you do have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can, more than ever, [Achieve Success Together.](#)
David Bullock, Headteacher