



25th August 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s),

## Updates and September Opening 2020

### GCSE and A Level Results.

We have had a very turbulent August dealing with the fall out of the government's U-turns on the A Level and GCSE examination grading system. However, our students have been simply incredible throughout this period - we had an excellent morning with year 13 on the 13th August and on 20th August we welcomed Year 11 in to collect their GCSE results. They have all coped with the stress and anxiety around the constant changes to the grading system with humor and tenacity - we are so lucky to have such wonderful students here at Our Lady's. We very much hope to welcome many of Year 11 back into the Sixth Form and wish Year 13 all the very best in the future careers at university. We are fortunate to have had yet another very successful year of exam results.

### September Opening

We will be welcoming all students back to school from **Wednesday 9th September 2020**, following an induction day for Year 7 and Year 12 only on Tuesday 8th September.

We are working closely with Hackney and the teaching unions in following the Government Guidance for the opening of schools. We have put in place key measures to allow us to bring back the whole school community. Some of these key measures included:

- Year Group Bubbles - meaning that mixing between year groups will be minimised
- Zoned areas for each year group - meaning that students from each year group will use specific classrooms
- Segregated staircases - meaning that where more than one year group use a stair case they will be one way only to avoid students from different year groups passing each other on the stairs
- One way staircases - meaning that where stairs are shared across year groups all traffic is in one direction to minimise the mixing of year groups.
- Staggered start and finish times - to alleviate pressure on use of public transport and to reduce the mixing of year groups on entry and exit from school. ***Please take careful note of the entry and exit times for each year group shown below.***

### Entry and Exit times and arrangements:

- Please note that parents will not be allowed onto the site to drop off or collect students. Parents must wait outside the appropriate exit and maintain social distancing.
- **Year 7** - lesson 1 STARTS at **9.15am** - enter via **Hillside Road** and onto the playground and then into the Canteen. Day ends at **2:45pm** - dismissed from the playground onto Hillside Road.
- **Year 8** - lesson 1 STARTS at **9.15am** - enter via the main entrance/reception on Amhurst Park. Day ends at **2:45pm** - dismissed from the main entrance onto Amhurst Park.



- **Year 9** - lesson 1 STARTS at **9.00am** - enter via the top gate (at the Sainsbury's end of the premises near Stamford Hill) from Amhurst Park. Day ends at **2.25pm** - dismissed via the top gate onto Amhurst Park
- **Year 10** - lesson 1 STARTS at **9.00am** - enter via the main entrance/reception on Amhurst Park. Day ends at **2.25pm** - dismissed from the main entrance onto Amhurst Park.
- **Year 11** - lesson 1 STARTS at **8:45am** - enter via the main entrance/reception on Amhurst Park. Day ends at **2:45pm** - dismissed via the top gate (at the Sainsbury's end of the premises near Stamford Hill) onto Amhurst Park
- **Year 12 and 13** - lesson 1 STARTS at **8:45am**- enter via Hillside and in via the Canteen. Day ends at **2.05pm** - students can remain on-site for lunch.

### **Covid-19 - self-isolate away from school**

It is incredibly important that your child remain at home if they or a member of their household have Covid-19 or have Covid-19 symptoms:

- Students must **self-isolate (that is remain at home)** for 14 days if:
  - have **any** symptoms of coronavirus:
    - a high temperature
    - a new, continuous cough
    - a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste)
  - has been told by NHS Test and Trace that they've been in contact with a person with coronavirus
- If they have symptoms, get a test to check if they have coronavirus as soon as possible. The test needs to be done in the first **5 days** of having symptoms.
- If a student has tested positive for coronavirus, they'll usually need to self-isolate for at least **10 days**.
- If a member of their household with symptoms tests positive for coronavirus the student will need to self-isolate for **14 days** and should also be tested.
- If a member of their household with symptoms tests negative for coronavirus the student can return to school.

For further information about getting a test see:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

### **Uniform**

We will be expecting students to wear school uniform as per usual. However, we will relax our school shoe rules in September acknowledging that these are an additional expensive item that may have been difficult to purchase for September. However, students **MUST** wear sensible, dark coloured footwear.

### **Equipment**

Stationery and every day equipment will not be provided or shared in classes. This is to minimise the potential spread of infection. Students will be expected to bring in a reading book and their own pencil case containing:

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ● 2 Pens (blue or black) | Other useful equipment          |
| ● Pencil                 | ● Glue stick                    |
| ● Ruler                  | ● Colouring pencils             |
| ● Eraser                 | ● Small pair of safety scissors |
| ● Pencil Sharpener       | ● Mathematics set               |

*'Shaping Tomorrow, Inspired by Faith'*

- Calculator
- Highlighters

**Tippex or other liquid correctors are not allowed**

### **Cashless School**

As you already know we operate a cashless catering system. It is incredibly important that you ensure that your daughter's account is topped up regularly as we will not be handling cash in school. If you have any issues or concerns with Parent Pay please contact the school office at [officeadmin@olchs.co.uk](mailto:officeadmin@olchs.co.uk) or phone the school from the 3rd September 2020.

### **Lunches**

We will start the term by providing only cold lunches (sandwiches and drinks). There will be hot snacks served at break time. This is in order to allow us to run staggered lunch breaks and minimise mixing across year groups. Students are able to bring in their own packed lunch if they prefer.

### **Water**

New water dispensers have been plumbed in to replace the pre-existing water fountains. Students are able to bring in their own water bottles and refill them in the dining hall during their breaks. Fizzy drinks, canned drinks and glass bottles are not allowed in school.

### **Marking**

Teachers will not be asked to collect in work to physically mark. This is to minimise the potential spread of infection. Teachers will be providing various forms of whole class feedback to support the progress of students. This will relate to both class and homework activities.

Finally, this next term will undoubtedly bring many challenges and unexpected changes so we do expect that we will all need to continue to be flexible and adaptive to changing circumstances.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation and we look forward to welcoming you daughter back to school in September!

Yours sincerely,



Ms Justine McDonald  
**Headteacher**