



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 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

Uniform Expectations (Year 7 - Year 11)

Students are expected to take pride in their uniform and appearance, creating a positive first impression of the school. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own appearance whilst maintaining the highest standards of conduct and behaviour at all times. All students are expected to wear the full uniform whilst travelling to and from school.

The following list is a reminder of common areas requiring particular attention:

Ankle socks	White only
Long socks	Below the knee black or white
Tights	Plain navy or black. <i>Only one pair of socks to be worn. Tights and socks may not be worn together. No leg warmers.</i>
Shoes	Sensible, dark coloured footwear
T-shirt	Only a white short sleeved T-shirt may be worn, for extra warmth, under the school shirt
Skirts	Must be knee length
Outdoor coat	Plain black/dark blue, and large enough for blazer to be worn underneath
Blazers	Must be worn to, from and in school. Except during exceptional hot weather (at the discretion of Headteacher)
Bags	Must be large enough to fit A4 books/ files and sufficiently robust to prevent the contents from being damaged. They must be rucksacks or satchel like bags. No other type of bag is allowed. Black/blue colours are recommended.
Hair	If a hair band is worn, <i>it should be black and no more than 5cm wide.</i> Hair should be your own natural colour. Hair bobbles and clips should be black, simple and not overly ornate.
Make up	Not permitted
Earrings	<i>One small stud only in each ear lobe no bigger than 6mm</i>
Jewellery	Not permitted (except earring – see above) and wristwatch

2020 - 21 TERM DATES

	First day	Last day
Autumn 1	Tuesday 8th September 2020	Friday 23rd October 2020
<i>Tuesday 8th September - Y7 & Y12 - All students return on Wednesday 9th September</i>		
Half-term break	Saturday 24th October 2020	Sunday 1st November 2020
Autumn 2	Monday 2nd November 2020	Thursday 17th December 2020
Christmas break	Friday 18th December 2020	Sunday 3rd January 2021
Spring 1	Monday 4th January 2021	Friday 12th February 2021
<i>INSET: 4th January - no students.</i>		
Half-term break	Saturday 13th February 2021	Sunday 21st February 2021
Spring 2	Monday 22nd February 2021	Wednesday 31st March 2021
Easter break	Thursday 1st April 2021	Sunday 18th April 2021
Summer 1	Monday 19th April 2021	Friday 28th May 2021
<i>Bank Holiday: 3rd May 2021 - school closed</i>		
Half-term break	Saturday 29th May 2021	Sunday 6th June 2021
Summer 2	Monday 7th June 2021	Friday 23rd July 2021

INSET DAYS			HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION		
1	Thu-3/9/20		1	All Saints	Sun-1/11/20
2	Fri - 4/9/20		2	Epiphany	Wed-6/1/21
3	Mon- 7/9/20		3	Ascension	Thu-13/5/21
4	Mon- 4/1/21		4	St Peter & St Paul	Tue-29/6/21
			5	Good Friday	Fri-2/4/21