

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**School re-opening in January 2021**  
**NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and pupils**

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable Christmas, notwithstanding the COVID-19 restrictions that we are all living with.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible and that work has continued over the Christmas holiday period. I would like to thank our incredible staff for their commitment and professionalism, which has seen many working over the holidays.

My letter today includes important information relating to when your child will return to school at the start of this coming term and relating to the COVID-19 testing process for staff and students.

**Information relating to school re-opening in January 2021**

The Government has now announced that secondary schools and colleges will re-open on a phased basis, as follows:

- If your child is classed as vulnerable or if you or your partner is a key worker, then your child will return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. They will receive a combination of face-to-face teaching and remote lessons in school when they return.
- If your child is in Year 11, they will return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. However, your child is expected to engage fully with their remote learning from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January so that they keep up with their learning.
- We can confirm that the Year 11 mock examinations will now begin on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. An updated timetable will be shared with all students during their Personal Tutor session on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. All external BTEC exams will take place as planned.
- If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 or 10, they will return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Your child is expected to engage fully with their remote learning during the weeks of both 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January so that they keep up with their education. All remote learning will take place from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- Please note that students who are in the academy will need to be in full school uniform and will start at 8.30am and finish at their normal time.
- As before, a great deal of planning and risk assessment has gone into ensuring that our school continues to be as safe as possible for pupils and staff, in line with latest Government and Public Health England guidance.

### Live lessons on Teams for students

Students need to use their school email address to log into Teams, if they have not done so already at home, using the full username followed by **@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk** – any passwords can be reset by contacting their RSL or Head of Year by email:

Year 7 RSL – [jcollis@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:jcollis@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 7 Head of Year - [snixon@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:snixon@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 8 RSL – [wilkes@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:wilkes@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 8 Head of Year - [ksheldon@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:ksheldon@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 9 RSL – [dwoodcock@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:dwoodcock@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 9 Head of Year - [nchuhan@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:nchuhan@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 10 RSL – [jmeredith@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:jmeredith@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 10 Head of Year - [tshaw@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:tshaw@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 11 RSL – [droberts@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:droberts@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

Year 11 Head of Year - [asmith@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:asmith@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

All learning can be accessed from any device and work will be completed in their class books. PT will begin at 8.45am each morning and students are to log on to this for a register mark and also to receive their messages for the day. Please note a register will continue to be taken for each lesson.

We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our pupils, working with you and keeping you informed every step of the way, while following Government rules and advice.

### **Information relating to NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and pupils**

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests can help staff and pupils 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. However, we are participating as a school and I would encourage all pupils and staff to take part as well.

We will be testing all staff and pupils who want to participate from week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, extending this as more pupils return in following weeks.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the attached consent form (one per pupil) and return it to the school office at:

[covid@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:covid@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

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. Results take around half an hour from testing and will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under-16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

The Government has shared information with us from Oxford University and Public Health England, which have indicated the tests are as accurate in identifying a case as a 'PCR test' (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but are considered better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. Please do ensure you complete and return the attached consent form, if you are happy for your child to take a COVID-19 test, by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

If you have any questions, please email these to:

[njames@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk](mailto:njames@ormistonhorizonacademy.co.uk)

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy New Year.

Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



A Fitzgibbon  
Principal