

17th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Christmas Half Term Update

An extremely long and challenging term comes to an end. The ongoing difficulties in both professional and personal lives continue for all of us, yet the community of The Orme Academy continues to impress and thrive. Attached to this communication is a copy of this term's newsletter – a snapshot of some of the wonderful achievements and activities that our students have been involved in. Please do take the time to look through and take some pleasure in the ongoing enrichment that our young people are experiencing. My words here are lost in comparison.

Hence, onto some practical considerations as we enter the Christmas break and enter 2021:

The Academy is required to support the track and trace of staff and students that have potentially been in contact with others in the school community in the previous 48 hours. Regarding Christmas holiday therefore, you only need to make the Academy aware of a positive test result if it occurs on Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th (up to 3.30pm on the Sunday), or if symptoms develop on these two days and a later positive test is returned. These two dates are significant as using the 48-hour rule, this could put the infected student in school on Thursday or Friday. Families already expecting test results as we go into the first weekend of the Christmas holiday, will already be in contact with the Attendance Officer. All other families that need to contact the Academy regarding a Covid-19 case can do so by emailing office@toa.shaw-education.org.uk. This email will be checked daily for the first 6 days. Any case presenting itself after these first 6 days do not need reporting to the Academy. I am hoping that I will not need to contact you at all over the Christmas break, but of course for the safety of students, families and staff this is work that I will absolutely do if needed.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers about our expectations regarding uniform. In the colder months, a navy-blue V neck jumper may be worn under the blazer, or a plain white t-shirt or vest under the shirt for additional warmth. Non-uniform jumpers and hoodies are not permitted anywhere on the Academy site. An outdoor coat may be worn over the blazer whilst outside, but this must be removed on corridors. In classrooms which may be cold due to the additional ventilation to ensure rooms are Covid-secure, the outdoor coat may be worn over the blazer at the discretion of the member of staff.

Students are due back to the Academy on Monday 4th January. We will need to continue to use the staggered start times and allocated gates as per this half term. We are due to finish for the February half term break on Friday 12th February. All the term dates can be found on the Academy website. Other key dates include Year 8 Parents' Evening (5th January), Year 9 Parents' Evening (19th January) and Year 10 Parents' Evening (2nd February) – all of which will be conducted virtually.

If you don't already, I would urge you to follow the Academy on Facebook (@TheOrmeAcademySET) and Twitter (@TheOrmeAcademy). These platforms are solely in place to share the wonderful activities that the students are enjoying on a day to day basis.

The next half term will continue to bring us challenges. Colder and wintery weather will still be with us and infection rates of Covid-19 will continue to be an issue. Inevitably I will to be faced with difficult decisions, but I can assure you that these decisions will be made decisively and with the safety of the entire school community at the root of the process. Practically there are a number of things that you can do to support. Firstly, help to maintain the high standards of discipline by reminding your child of what is expected and indeed support the Academy in the application of these standards. Follow the local guidelines to the letter and ensure your child fully understands them. Face masks will continue to be a feature of the Academy uniform so please ensure your child has one every day.

The Christmas holiday break usually brings opportunities for rest, celebration, fun and family time. I hope, despite ongoing issues, that you and your loved ones stay safe and well and that you are able to make the most of this time together.

Your sincerely



Mr Mark Boughey
Principal

