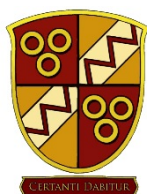


# The Oldershaw Academy

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Executive Principal: Mr J Bush

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## Staggered Reopening – January 2021

As you may be aware, at very short notice last week, information began to emerge about a staggered return for secondary school pupils during week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. In addition, the Department for Education has shared initial plans for schools to begin testing pupils and school staff, with the expectation that all staff and pupils should be tested.

Unfortunately, we are still awaiting further information from the Department for Education, as well as the necessary equipment to facilitate testing in school. The Department for Education have suggested that schools should take an extra INSET day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to prepare for testing; therefore, **the Academy will be closed to all pupils on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

## Vulnerable Children & Children of COVID19 Critical Workers

The Academy will make appropriate provision for children in Years 7-10 and 12 who are considered vulnerable to attend school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, including those in Local Authority care and those with EHCPs. The children of COVID19 critical workers are also able to attend school where alternative childcare arrangements are not possible.

Should you require a place for your child due to their vulnerable status, or because you are a COVID19 critical worker, please email [schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk) to indicate this. COVID19 critical workers should also provide proof of their critical worker status such as a photograph of work identification badge. Once indicated, your child can then attend as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## Years 11 & 13 – Exam Year Groups

We hope to be able to test Years 11 and 13 from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January onwards; please ensure that you monitor the school website for further information and testing arrangements. We expect there may be delays in test kits and training. **Information regarding parental consent will be shared in January.**

## Other Year Groups

Pupils in Years 7–10 and Year 12 should not attend school during week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and will be provided with high quality remote learning during this time. We will also require a staggered return for these year groups in order to facilitate testing; please ensure that you monitor the school website for further information.

All pupils will be provided with high quality remote education through Microsoft Teams during this time; your child's teachers will be posting resources and activities to support home learning, as well as being available to respond to questions and support learning through the 'Chat' function in Microsoft Teams. Teaching staff will be available online to support your child in this way according to their usual timetable.

I appreciate that I am sharing the Department for Education's decision with you at short notice and with minimal detail, and that this may present challenges for families; unfortunately, this situation is completely beyond our control. However, this short-term change will give schools the opportunity to plan and implement COVID19 rapid testing as directed by the DfE, which ultimately will reduce the disruption caused to your child's education due to COVID19.

Whilst we await further information and specific details from the DfE, I would urge all parents / carers to **check the Academy website and their emails on a regular basis**. As soon as I am in a position to write to parents / carers with the specific details of the January return and the testing process, I will do so.

Once again, thank you for your continued support throughout the ongoing challenges posed by COVID19 and I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr J Bush', written over the typed name.

**Mr J Bush**  
**Principal**