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Principal: Mrs C Stanyer

4th November 2020

Dear parents/carers,

As you are aware we are entering a period of new national restrictions starting on Thursday 5th November. The Government are prioritising the wellbeing and long-term futures of our young people and therefore will not be closing schools, colleges or universities. However, we have had to make some amendments to our current protective measures and Covid response procedures to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. The new measures are described in this letter and will be implemented from Thursday 5th November until 2nd December, unless further restrictions come into place.

Extra-Curricular Activities

As of Thursday 5th November, we are cancelling all **after school** non-essential enrichment activities including sports and other clubs which do not constitute essential wraparound care. We do understand that a small number of parents rely on extra-curricular activities as part of their childcare routine and therefore, we would like to continue to offer essential support to those families that need it. If you wish to discuss this, please do not hesitate to contact ejames@omera.co.uk and Miss James (Director of Extra-Curricular and Enrichment) will respond. Lunchtime clubs will continue to run.

Year 11 Catch Up

We will continue to run all of our intervention sessions for Year 11 students including P6, bootcamps and Saturday sessions. We remain absolutely committed to providing our Year 11 students with the best possible support in the lead up to their GCSE and other examinations.

Detention System

The detention system will continue to be implemented after school.

Home and Independent Learning (HAIL)

As an academy we have chosen to use an amount of our Covid Catch Up funding to support effective learning from home. We have purchased a range of online learning platforms that provide effective tutoring programmes for effective independent learning and the details of these have been given to students. In addition to this, we have purchased a range of English, mathematics and science resources for all students. Details of these will be provided, in the very near future, by Mr Blundred (Director of KS3 Achievement) and Miss Darlington (Assistant Principal Achievement).

Ormiston Meridian Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Rapid Response Protocols

We have produced a series of leaflets which give details of how we will provide education and learning opportunities for your child in the event of them not being able to access their usual lessons in the academy. These are available on the school website.

The remote education we will continue to provide will be a form of blended learning including recap and retrieval, preparatory reading and applying understanding. Primarily, we use Google Classroom where staff upload power points, resources and other helpful links to learning platforms and subject specific websites. All lessons will follow the curriculum plans for each subject which can be found on our website. This will help you see what topics are to be studied by your child. Students should upload their completed work as evidence that they have attempted tasks and activities set by their teachers to avoid falling behind with their learning. Teachers will provide support and comments via the email facility on Google Classroom.

Should a whole year group be required to be educated from home, or, in the event of an academy closure dictated by local or national circumstances, teachers will also provide Live Lessons for students in line with their timetabled lessons*. It will be compulsory to attend these lessons and an attendance register will be taken and reported to the attendance team. Live Lessons will be accessible via Google Classroom. Students are aware of the safeguarding expectations and behaviour protocols when accessing Live Lessons but a video is available as a refresher on Google Classroom and our leaflet advises parents of some expectations to keep everyone safe which we urge you to read.

We will not be sending paper packs of work home, as we hope to minimise the need for contact between us and yourselves.

**in the event that a teacher is unable to deliver a Live Lesson, the resources will be posted on Google Classroom and your child will be required to work through them independently.*

Laptop Loan Service

We understand that not every child has access to the technology they need to access Google Classroom at home. Therefore, we are continuing to run our laptop loan service for those students that require it. We do not have a large number of laptops and therefore, we want the students who really need them to have them. We are asking families in the first instance to purchase technology if you can, but where this is not a possibility we will then consider a loan. You will need to email the following email address for further support:

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9
Students in Years 10 and 11

Mr Hussain jhussain@omera.co.uk
Miss McGlynn cmcglynn@omera.co.uk

If laptops are damaged in anyway the parent who signs the loan agreement will be charged for the damage.

Students on Free School Meals

If your child receives FSM, they are still eligible for their FSM should they be required to isolate because of Covid. As we did in lockdown, we will be sending a text message to all parents of FSM children asking if you wish for your child to receive a FSM hamper should they have to isolate. If you reply 'yes' we will ensure that a hamper is prepared (within the first 2 days of the isolation period). Someone will need to collect the hamper and this must NOT be someone who is self-isolating. In extreme circumstances we may be able to help with a delivery.

Ventilation

Good ventilation within our building has been a priority for us as it is an important factor in preventing the spread of the virus indoors. Windows will remain open during the winter months and I understand it may become cold. Therefore, we have amended the uniform guidance to now include a black V-neck jumper. In addition, staff will make decisions about the temperature within their classrooms and allow students to wear their school coat when necessary. Any items of clothing that are not part of our uniform policy, for example hooded tops, will not be permitted and will be confiscated in line with the usual regulations.

Face Masks

The Government guidance states that from 5th November all students need to wear face coverings in common areas moving around the school. As we already moved to this position some time ago we do not yet need to take any further action but we continue to support students who prefer to wear face coverings in the classroom and we will reserve the right to make face masks compulsory in classrooms with immediate effect if we need to.

Car Park Protocols

We politely remind parents that you must not get out of your cars and escort students into the school premises or to their access routes to their yards. This is important for everyone's safety and we politely ask you to observe this protective measure consistently.

Visitors

We will only be allowing visitors into the building for face to face meetings where it is deemed essential. All other non-essential meetings will take place over video or phone call. Essential meetings are deemed as anything related to the effective safeguarding of students and staff members will inform you if you are required to attend school. If you had a meeting planned, the staff member who arranged the meeting will contact you to inform you if the meeting is going ahead face to face or over video/phone call.

'Let's Talk'

We understand that some families will need additional support for a range of reasons during school holidays as well as during term time. We have launched our 'Let's Talk' support email between the hours of 8:45am – 5:00pm during all school holidays (excluding national holidays) and our school safeguarding team will be on call to support you with any needs you or your child may have. If you wish to contact the team for any support please use letstalk@omera.co.uk stating your concerns and your contact details.

If you have any further queries, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us on 377100 or info@omera.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Stanyer
Principal

