

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has certainly been a busy half term so far with many events taking place in the academy over the past couple of weeks. On that note I would like to give you a couple of updates in preparation for next term.

Can I start by sending a sincere thank you to all parents and carers for your warm welcome and support this half term. I have been delighted by the positive attitude and commitment of all our students in cooperating and adhering to the academies expectations. We really appreciate your support with ensuring your child attends every day and is equipped and ready for their learning.

### **COVID Update**

As you will be aware Government guidance has changed and in line with regulations, we have ensured that we have the highest standards of hygiene, including a heightened focus on cleaning touch points throughout the day.

Thank you to all parents who consented to asymptomatic testing prior to the academy re-opening. I am pleased to report that since re-opening reported cases of the virus have been low since the start of term. It is important that we all continue to follow the guidelines and hygiene controls to limit the spread of the virus. Please note that if your child has symptoms they must not come into school and a PCR test should be booked. In addition, the latest guidance asks for Asymptomatic testing to continue as per below:

*“Staff and secondary school pupils should continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3 to 4 days apart. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.”*

[You can read the full guidance here](#)

If you have any questions about this please do contact the academy.

### **GCSE update - Year 11 Parents**

Earlier this month Ofqual published the outcome of its consultation regarding the awarding of GCSEs in 2022. Please see a summary below of the key points and a link here to the full document. This information will also be shared during an assembly this week with Year 11 students:

1. There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography.
2. Centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE biology, chemistry, physics, combined science,
3. Students taking GCSE, art and design will be assessed on their portfolio only.

4. Exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE subjects (except GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography) for the summer 2022 exams.
5. Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022. Exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams.
6. Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science in summer 2022, covering all the equations required in the subject content. Exam boards will provide copies of the equation sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams.

Guidance has also been provided on vocational qualifications and contingency plans in case the Public Health situation changes.

The full guidance can be found [here](#)

**Year 11 Mock Examinations** will take place from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November for two weeks. Students will sit examinations in all of their exam based subjects. It is vitally important that you child is in school every day to sit these examinations so that we can understand how to best support your child moving forward. In order to prepare for these examinations independently, students will be provided with a pack of work to support their studies over the half term break including a guide of how to revise. Please encourage your child to engage with these tasks.

#### **Free School Meals (FSM):**

If your child is eligible for FSM please see additional important information on the school website. Follow the link here: <https://tinyurl.com/u4wnaukr>

#### **Parent Voice**

As we continue on our journey of improvement it is important that I gain your thoughts and views.

Please find a link below to the first of many surveys which will help shape our academy. The survey will not take long to complete, thank you in advance for your time with this.

<https://forms.office.com/r/fiHJ87KYTL>

#### **Reminder of Oasis Trust Wide Training Day for All Staff – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Please note the academy will be closed for students on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.

#### **Return to School - Half Term 2:**

All students will return to the Academy after the half term break on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Please can I remind all parents that the Government do not allow holidays to be taken during term time and any absence due to being on holiday will be unauthorised and a fixed penalty notice issued.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October		School closed for Staff Training
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	School closed for Autumn Half Term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November		School re-opens for all years
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December		Last Day of Term
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	School closed for Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022		School closed Staff Training Day
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January		School re-opens for all years

If you have any questions, please contact the academy on T: 0161 624 9630 or email: [admin.requests@oasisoldham.org](mailto:admin.requests@oasisoldham.org)

With grateful thanks for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Dillon  
Principal

**Principal - Marie Dillon**

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