



Oldbury Wells

INFORMATION SHEET

November 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians

We hope that this letter finds you all well and need to update you on a few matters ahead of the winter period. We are aware that the cold weather is approaching and tend to send out a reminder to parents at this point each year. We are especially mindful to inform Year 7 parents of these processes. Additionally we felt it would be sensible to inform parents of some of the PSHE work we are doing in school and to inform you of some ways you may as parents wish to update your knowledge, if you feel that is helpful to you.

PSHE Work:

We have had a series of visitors to assemblies recently. Some visitors have joined us to support our careers education programme. We have also had the police lead two assemblies recently. One was about safety in the community and the other about drug awareness. We carefully plan our assemblies and our PSHE programme to make sure we cover all the things that our young people need to know about. Specifically, we have all seen in the news that both locally and nationally, that there are changes to risks around drug use. There have been a number of articles and programmes about County Lines for example. We know how important it is that our pupils know about these risks and how to keep themselves safe.

Our Drugs policy is on our website if you would like to view it. It explains the work we do in school in some detail. It also outlines the strict line the school takes in terms of our expectations of students in this area. Indeed, you will see that students are very likely to lose their place at our school for serious breaches of this policy. You can find our policy at: www.oldburywells.com. Our Policy is firm and clear because we have a duty to protect all pupils from any involvement or interaction with any matters related to prohibited substances.

You may be interested to find out about this area for yourselves. We can provide you with two website addresses which give excellent advice for parents. Websites: www.talktofrank.com and www.drugwise.org.uk

If you would like further information about our careers or PSHE programmes, then please contact Ms Warner.

Extreme Weather Procedures!

We occasionally need to close the school when extreme weather arrives, and we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our procedures:

1. If extreme weather arrives overnight, the decision whether to open the school will be made in liaison with our site staff and the bus companies. In the event that the school will be closed for the day, a notice will be posted on the school website in addition to going out through BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM) and our texting service. If no announcement is made, the school will be open. I am sure you will understand that our catchment is wide and diverse, and any decision made about closure is in the interests of the health and safety of *all* of our students.
2. If extreme weather arrives during the day, the need to get children to their home villages and towns becomes pretty immediate. We very much take the advice of the bus companies over this - they are the ones out on the roads and aware of the road conditions and who will be responsible for getting the children home safely. As a large secondary school, in the event of a sudden need to close school, we will notify you via a posting on the school website and a message from our texting service*. BBC Radio Shropshire (96FM) and the local authority will also be informed.

We would be grateful if all parents could ensure that their children know what to do if we need to send them home early, with very little notice and while working parents may still be away from home - it would be useful if this can be discussed and agreed with your children. Often a relative, friend or neighbour can be called upon to help out until you are able to return home but this, of course, needs to be clarified in advance and your children made aware of where they should go.

*NB, our texting service is, of course, only as good as the information it contains, please ensure that we are provided with notification of any changes in your contact details.

MOCK EXAMS – YEAR 11

Year 11 mock exams will be held from the 2nd to the 16th December. All pupils have been given detailed timetables. These are very important exams for Year 11 and good revision is essential.

UNIFORM REMINDER

As the cold weather is upon us please be aware that hoodies/sweatshirts should not be worn either under or over blazers. To keep warm, we require students to wear school uniform of school jumpers, and a suitable outdoor coat.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Friday, 20 December, the last day of term, is Christmas Jumper Day! We are raising money for Save the Children and the Bridgnorth Foodbank (£1 donation please). Pupils can wear a Christmas Jumper instead of a blazer if they wish to take part ... home decorated jumpers preferred! As last year, there will be prizes for the most impressive jumpers!

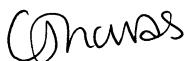
CELEBRATION EVENING

Year 12 - A note for your diary. Our Celebration Evening this year, when exam certificates and prizes are awarded to last year's Year 11 and Year 13 students, will be held on Thursday, 9 January 2020. Our Guest speaker will be Iain Pitt, a former student and now CEO of the Energy Council.

Best wishes to you all



Sarah Godden
Headteacher



Lisa Thomas
Principal Deputy

Term Dates for academic year 2019/20

Autumn Term 2019

Starts Tuesday, 3 September 2019: Year 7 and Year 12 only
Wednesday, 4 September 2019: All students
Half-term Monday, 28 October - Friday 1 November 2019 inclusive
Ends Friday, 20 December 2019
PD Days: Monday, 2 September 2019 and Friday, 25 October 2019

Spring Term 2020

Starts Tuesday, 7 January 2020
Half-term Monday, 17 – Friday 21 February 2020 inclusive
Ends Thursday, 2 April 2020
PD Days: Monday, 6 January 2020 and Friday, 3 April 2020

Summer Term 2020

Starts Monday, 20 April 2020
Bank Holiday Friday, 8 May 2020
Half-term Monday, 25 - Friday, 29 May 2020 inclusive
Ends Friday, 17 July 2020

*Reminder from the Kitchen staff, please remember to top up your child's account at www.parentpay.com.
Alternatively, students can top up with cash using the machine in the canteen.*