



18 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Updates

Thank you to all families, students and staff for their support on our return to school at the start of the Spring Term. Following some uncertainty at the start of the year due to COVID, everyone within school has quickly adjusted to any new ways of working and settled back into the normal school routine.

There are several updates which I wanted to share with you which I have merged into one letter.

- **Trust Updates.** You will have received the letter from Mrs Godden (CEO of TrustEd partnership) outlining details regarding the merger of our Trust with the Central Shropshire Academy Trust (CSAT). Although there will be no obvious changes to the day-to-day running of all schools, this merger brings an opportunity for all schools to move forward with even greater capacity for collaboration and developments at all levels. We look forward to continuing our journey with all schools concerned.
- **TrustEd Partnership Work.** At the start of the new term staff from OWS had the opportunity to work with colleagues across TrustEd schools. Teachers from both primary and secondary level worked together to focus on a range of areas which all aimed to support children's educational journey from Early Years through to Post 16 provision. The day was extremely successful and helped support key discussion regarding transition work from primary to secondary school and gave a focus on future actions which will support children at all ages; we look forward to continuing this collaborative way of working as we move forward into exciting times ahead.
- **Staffing Updates**

New Staff: We welcome Mrs Allsop (Science) and Miss Carter (School Business and Operations Manager) to the school team.

Key Stage staffing: Ms Barlow our Key Stage 4 pastoral support worker will not be in school for a while as she will be undertaking medical treatment. Mrs Burrows will be covering her work with Year 10 & 11 students; she will be based in the Key Stage 4 Pastoral Office with our Heads of Year, having already supported many students across the school through her work with us in Learning Support.

- **COVID Updates.** We continue to respond to government guidance with regards to COVID cases; please see two key updates below:

Confirmatory PCR Test. Should an individual return a positive LFD test there is no longer a requirement to book a PCR test. The LFD result triggers the requirement for the individual to isolate with immediate effect.

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Schools' Partnership

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Changes to the self-isolation period: For those who test positive for COVID-19 (this change came into effect in England on Monday, 17 January and applies to all positive cases, regardless of vaccination status). People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 can reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both Day 5 & Day 6, and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of Day 5 and the morning of Day 6, they can return to school immediately on Day 6; the first test must be taken no earlier than Day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Despite the challenges COVID brings, our aim remains to keep as much normality in school as is possible throughout the weeks ahead. We will continue to provide updates as and when they arrive and work with students in school to ensure they continue to receive the very best support and provision.

Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to supporting the progress of all students in the months ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Tristham'.

Lee Tristham
Headteacher