

Our Ref: DAr/JWa

December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting, busy and extremely productive first term at Oulder Hill. Our new Year 7 cohort have made a fantastic start, settling in quickly and making positive contributions across all areas of school life. Equally, students in all other year groups have made a very impressive start to the academic year, something which bodes very well for 2019. Our recent Celebration Evening was a magnificent showcase of our students' hard work and talents and we have had many success stories already this year, both academically and in other extended learning and sporting activities. Most recently, our Year 11 Students have sat their Pre Public Examinations (Mocks in old money!). Students have conducted themselves superbly throughout the process and we look forward to sharing the results of these exams in the new year at a special Year 11 event. As we approach the Christmas holidays and the end of a successful first term, we would like to make you aware of a few other things.

Reward Trip Day – Wednesday 19th December 2018

For those students involved in our reward trips, details for the day were included in the recent letters from Mrs Farrell. If you require any further information, please contact the school. For those students not involved in the reward trips, you will be following the normal school day and full school uniform and equipment is expected.

Arrangements for the Last Day of Term – Friday 21st December 2018

The last day of term is Friday 21st December. We plan to use some of this day to celebrate with our students and welcome in the Christmas holidays. As such the day will be a non-uniform and Christmas Jumper Day. To ensure that non-uniform day can be enjoyed by all, we have set out some guidelines below as to appropriate dress for the day; please ensure your child is mindful of this when selecting what to wear. On this day we would like to ask for donations towards Rochdale Food Bank, items can include none perishable foods, tinned food and toiletries. These will be collected at the Pupil Entrance as Students arrive. The day will finish at 12.00pm as per the calendar. For those students who travel on the school bus service, it is important to note that the morning service into school will run as normal, however there will be no afternoon school bus service that day so alternative arrangements will need to be made for your child's safe journey home. It is our intention that all students will be allowed to participate in the activities on the final day, however our Isolation Room will be operational and senior staff will be on duty so please ensure your child is aware that school rules will still apply fully on this day and provision will be made for anyone who contravenes these rules. We are looking forward to what should be an enjoyable day and a fitting way for Students and Staff to finish such an excellent term.

Prohibited items on Non-Uniform Day

The following items of clothing and accessories are not permitted on non-uniform day. This is to ensure that the day can be conducted safely, professionally and without embarrassment for any of our staff and students.

- Excessively short skirts, dresses or shorts.
- Low cut tops or crop top style garments (i.e. those which leave the midriff exposed)
- Hats (inside the school building)
- Oversized or dangle style earrings (for health and safety purposes)
- High heeled shoes
- Excessively tight fitting trousers or pants (i.e. stretch fabrics)

School Uniform

Firstly may we take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our uniform policy again this term. Throughout the term we have had many visitors to our school who all comment on the excellent appearance and manners of our Students. With this in mind, could I ask for your continuing support in maintaining those standards? School uniform rules will apply fully up to and including Thursday 20th December and students not in correct uniform will continue to be dealt with as per the school policy.

We would also like to make you aware that we will be having additional uniform checks throughout the first few weeks back in January to ensure we maintain the high standards set. Please take a moment to ensure you are fully aware of our uniform policy and that your child's uniform complies with this. The information can be found on the school website under the Parents section and is also included in the Information for Parents booklet sent to you over the summer, additional copies of which are available on request.

Travelling to and from school

In light of several concerns raised recently by people visiting the local cemetery, we have been asked to share the following statement from Rochdale Borough Council.

"The Council, as the landowner of the cemetery has a duty of care to any person visiting the grounds. This would be funeral processions, mourners and pedestrians walking through the cemetery. The roadways are designed for funerals and bereaved visitors cars and for that reason they are narrow with no separate footpaths with the speed limit set at 10mph. The roadways are also used by Council staff in vehicles tending the cemetery grounds. It is not designed, nor intended to be used as a public highway. As well as ensuring the cemetery is a safe place for visitors, the Council has a morale duty to maintain the respect to the deceased and bereaved that they deserve.

Unfortunately the cemetery is frequently being used as a cut through by parents dropping off and collecting pupils from Oulder Hill. A few weeks ago this resulted in a serious incident involving a funeral procession. Prior to this incident there have been a number of near misses with pedestrians and vehicles. We would now like to respectfully ask that parents cease using the cemetery as a cut-through and use the roads within the local area. The sanctity of the cemetery must be maintained at all times."

We are proud to be a Community School and place a great deal of emphasis on maintaining positive relationships with people within our local community. As such, we have reminded all students in assemblies about their responsibility to be respectful citizens who represent our school and community in a positive way, this includes when travelling to and from school. A message we would welcome Parents/Carers reinforcing with their child(ren).

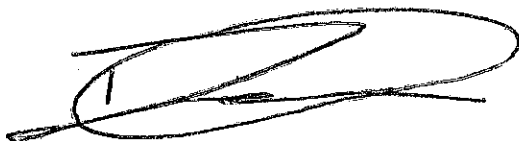
School Reopens – Thursday 3rd January 2019

School reopens to Students on Thursday 3rd January. Please ensure your son/daughter is here before the bell at 8.25am and prepared for lessons.

Thank You

In closing we would like to thank all of our Students and their families for another very successful term at Oulder Hill. Working together, we are continuing to give all our young people the opportunities to be their best, always and everywhere. On behalf of all our Staff, our Governing Body and the Parent Forum, we would like to wish you all happy holidays, merry Christmas and very best wishes for 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D. Armitage
Assistant Head



Mr J. Watson
Headteacher