

1 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week marks the end of our Academic Tutorials with Y12 students in response to the Government's guidance. It has been wonderful to see students arrive on site to meet with teaching staff; students have conducted themselves impeccably following all the guidelines for a safe and secure environment. Having not seen them for nearly 3 months, staff have relished the chance to have conversations about wellbeing, engagement, learning and support them with next steps. Following their tutorial, each student has been emailed a copy of their personalised action plan setting out how they need to approach their Google Classroom work in the next two weeks until their second tutorial.

Parent Communication

Last week the Google Guardians facility went live. When a guardian accepts an invitation, they get regular emails about their child's work and classes. These emails, known as guardian summaries, include information about missing work, upcoming work, and class activity. A Google form has been put into the 'Y12 Guidance classroom', as the student has to consent to their data being shared, therefore they have to enter the guardian's e-mail. Please talk to your child about setting this up. After you accept the invitation, you get regular email summaries of your child's work. If you feel they have deleted the email, please let the VMG tutor know and we can re-issue the form. Please be aware that the student Google email function does not allow them to email staff directly - all communication should be done via the Google Classroom.

Online Learning and Live Lessons

Can I take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers for their continued support with remote learning. The last 15 weeks have brought both challenge and inspiration in equal measure, and staff have been overwhelmed by the manner in which students have responded to this very difficult time. We are delighted to be teaching online lessons live online using Google Meet from Thursday 2 July. Students have been sent the information that they will need for this on their 'Year 12' Google Classroom. One important note is that students will need to use their school email (not their personal emails) to log into the Classrooms and Google Meet links otherwise they will not be able to join the google meet. As yet, we do not know what the educational provision will look like in September but we are already working on a number of different models to ensure we continue to provide the best and safest learning environment possible.

UCAS and Post18 Guidance

In regards to this final half term we are focusing on introducing our students to the world of UCAS and apprenticeships through the use of Unifrog online. Students can now register for their UCAS Applications for 2021 and begin completing various parts of the form. I hope your son/daughter has spoken to you about Unifrog which, as an online platform, has allowed students to search for and filter out the most suitable university courses and/or apprenticeships for them during their time at home.

Finally, on a more personal note this time of year does see staffing changes and movements and therefore I would like to make you aware of such developments. It is with a heavy heart that after 3 years working with such a wonderful group of young people, I will be moving from Post 16 in order to take up a position as a Vice Principal here at Outwood Grange Academy. I would like to wish all of our students, families and colleagues the very best for the future. The new Director of Post 16 is Thomas Highnett, as an experienced Head of Geography and a well-respected A-level teacher, I know the Post 16 Centre is in good hands. I take great comfort in looking forward to keeping in touch with next year's year 13 students and working with Tom to ensure that they achieve the very best outcomes; I know he will take our provision on to new heights.

Thank you for all of your support and should you require any assistance, further details or clarification please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Lauren Knowles
Director of Post 16