

25th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a busy few weeks at Ounsdale, and there are many upcoming activities I would like to make you aware of, please find details below.

Student conduct

I remain highly impressed with the positivity of students around school. The conduct and manners of students are exemplary and I have seen many examples of students helping each other out, a massive well done to students. In addition, punctuality to school remains excellent for the vast majority of students, and I extend my thanks to you as parents for your support in ensuring they are here on time.

Open evening

On Thursday 20th September we opened the school to prospective students and their families. Despite heavy rain the evening was a great success, we were overwhelmed by the number of visitors. Students were involved in demonstrations in classrooms, conducting tours, and even speaking on the main stage. They were a credit to the school and showed high levels of professionalism – well done!!

Extra-curricular activities

The web-site now contains details of all the activities that run during lunch time and after school, these are also summarised below. The timetable will change as more opportunities become available. Please view the web-site for regular information and please encourage your child to be making the most of all that is on offer to them.

LUNCH CLUBS

	Monday Lunch	Tuesday Lunch	Wednesday Lunch	Thursday Lunch	Friday Lunch
Year 7-9	D/T Craft Club – Rm 27 Orchestra – Rm 34 Song Writing – Prac Rm 1 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	Training Band – Rm 34 Flute Choir – Prac Rm 1 Table Tennis – PE Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	Chess Club – Rm 52 Pop and Rock Club – Rm 34 Advanced Vocals – Prac Rm 1 Badminton – PE Language Leaders – Rm 20 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	School Choir - Rm 34 STEM Club – Rm 40 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	Music Free Time – Rm 34 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)
Year 10-11	Badminton – PE Song Writing – Prac Rm 1 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	Training Band – Rm 34 Flute Choir – Prac Rm 1 French Films – Rm 21 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	Chess Club – Rm 52 Pop and Rock Club – Rm 34 Advanced Vocals – Prac Rm 1 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	School Choir - Rm 34 Table Tennis – PE Spanish Films – Rm 19 Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)	Music Free Time – Rm 34 Badminton (BTEC ONLY)-PE Social Skills – Inclusion 1 (See RHA or JWE)

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

	Monday 3PM	Tuesday 3PM	Wednesday 3PM	Thursday 3PM	Friday 3PM
Year 7-9	Grease Rehearsals – Hall Netball (Y8-10) – PE Football (Y7) – PE Football (Y8) – PE (WEEK 2 ONLY) HWK Club - Library	Germany Vocals – Rm 34 Art Club – Rm 37 HWK Club - Library	HWK Club - Library	Grease Rehearsals – Hall Football (Y9) – PE Football (Y8) – PE (WEEK 1 ONLY) HWK Club - Library	Music Tech Club – Rm 34
Year 10-11	GCSE music support – Rm 34 Grease Rehearsals – Hall Netball (Y8-10) – PE Football (Y10) – PE HWK Club - Library	Germany Vocals – Rm 34 GCSE History – Rm 18 GCSE Geography – Rm 5 HWK Club – Library Further Maths – (Y11 Invite Only)	HWK Club - Library	Grease Rehearsals – Hall Art Club – Rm 37 HWK Club - Library	Art Club – Rm 37 Music Tech Club – Rm 34

Macmillian Coffee Morning

Macmillan Cancer Support are hoping that the world's Biggest coffee morning will take place this Friday (28th September) to raise money for their important work with families effected by cancer. To support the event Mrs Campion has been busy organizing events in school. Students can wear an item of green clothing in addition to their uniform on Friday and donate a £1 to the charity (school trousers/skirt and blazers must still be worn). In addition, cakes will be sold in room 21 at break with proceeds going to the charity.

Humanities field work

As outlined in previous communications it is the Y11 Humanities field work day this Friday (28th) and the Y10 Humanities field work day on Friday 5th October. Y10 and Y11 geography students will complete fieldwork on both days. Let's hope for sunshine and I trust all students will enjoy these educational experiences.

Parents evening (Year 7 and selected Year 11 students)

To ensure students have settled into the new term well and are making the progress needed for a successful year a parents evening is scheduled for this Monday (1st October).

For Year 7 parents/carers you will have the opportunity to meet your child's tutor and review the transition from primary school. We do hope your son/daughter is happy at Ounsdale and if there is any additional help needed we hope this is an opportune time to discuss this with tutors.

For selected Year 11 we would like to have the opportunity to review how well students are working towards their GCSE exams, and to put in place any arrangements that can further support students. Some Year 11 students have been invited to attend on Monday as they are working really hard and we would like to ensure this is celebrated. Other students need additional support in planning their time and working effectively.

If you are a parent/carer of a Y11 student that has not been invited to attend but feel a conversation would be beneficial do make contact with Mrs Parkes (Head of Year 11) who will make the necessary arrangements for you to visit the school.

Year 11 students will complete mock exams at the end of November/beginning of December. Information regarding revision planning and mock exam timetables will be published later this half term.

Building work

The building work to improve the teaching environment of Ounsdale High School is on-going. Students were informed of the importance of not entering areas that have been sectioned off at the beginning of term, all students have followed the guidance given and must continue to do so.

The playground in-between the practical and teaching block was dug up in the summer and a large tank installed as part of a flood prevention strategy. This has been tarmacked but it is an uneven temporary surface. It is therefore important that students don't run on this area and that lunch time pursuits that involve running take place on the school field.

Sanctions for students

The vast majority of students at Ounsdale get things right on a consistent basis and we are rewarding students on a termly basis for meeting our expectations. However, the following information is provided to remind you of the sanctions in operation for students making mistakes.

There are no immediate sanctions when a member of staff issues a yellow card, but they are monitored and the information used to support and identify suitable intervention strategies as and when needed. We are a school and we anticipate students will sometimes make mistakes. However, we expect students to learn from their mistakes and not make the same errors again and again. Therefore, if a child receives 15 yellow cards in one term (for behaviour related incidents) they will be placed in Isolation for 1 day.

If after a student has been issued with a yellow card they continue to disturb the learning of others they are removed from the lesson and a red card issued. This will result in a 35 minute Faculty detention. Any further non-compliance will result in a 'call-out' where a senior member of staff will remove the student and that student will be placed in a sixth form lesson or Isolation. This will result in a 45 minute Leadership detention the following day.

These strategies, which have not changed significantly for some time, allow a calm and effective learning environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr G Smith

Headteacher