

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. As the autumn term draws to a close, I wanted to remind you of some important information. Term ends on Wednesday 22nd December. Students will leave school at 12pm and those eligible for a free school meal will be able to have a grab and go lunch from the canteen.

All students will return on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at the normal time. We will shortly be sending out consent forms for any parents or carers who wish their child to receive a Covid lateral flow test on their return.

Year 11 parents' evening will take place remotely on Thursday 6th January 2022. Parents and carers should have already received notification of this and be able to book their appointments.

As we continue to drive standards up, it is important that students adhere to school uniform rules. Trainers are not permitted and shoes must be black and you must be able to polish them. Blazers are compulsory and school bags should be big enough to hold an A4 exercise book comfortably. Students are expected to bring a full set of equipment to all lessons. Make up and jewellery are not permitted and students will be told to remove them. Mobile phones should not be used on the school site and will be confiscated if seen and returned from Student Services on the same day. We are grateful for your continued support with these matters.

We continue to operate as normally as possible with students and staff being expected to wear face coverings in communal areas, such as corridors, and on public transport to and from school. We will continue to distribute home testing kits and these are available to all students via their Progress Leader. We encourage all students to test at home twice weekly 3-4 days apart. Should a student present with symptoms they should not come in to school but take a test. From 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 has been introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an LFD test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate. The links to the guidance are below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Should the guidance for opening and operation of schools change in the coming weeks we will, of course, keep you informed.

I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

God bless and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Mangan
Headteacher.

Headteacher: **Mr Joe Mangan**