



3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In the run up to Christmas

The PHSG calendar is full of fun Christmas activities both during and after school. However, the latest guidance from Government and from our health and safety team has meant that we have had to review our plans. As you would expect, we have not made any decision lightly, but we have been mindful about our responsibility to do our bit to help reduce the spread of the virus. We decided to make decisions now so that students and parents/carers were not left unsure about what was happening in school. As a reminder, students are asked to take two lateral flow tests at home each week. Kits are available in school, students just need to see their tutors.

Many of our students have worked hard in rehearsals for things like; carols and mince pies, drama festival, carol concert etc. We will be able to move some of these to virtual events, but some we have had to cancel. We are mindful that we want to limit the chance of people being ill at any time, but especially now as people are really looking forward to spending Christmas with friends and family following what happened 12 months ago.

Carols and mince pies will not be able to go ahead in its usual form because we cannot invite large numbers of parents/carers into school to sing indoors. Instead, we are trying to plan a virtual version of CAMP so that performers still have the chance to sing and people can still enjoy being part of it, even if virtually. We are hoping to post the virtual CAMP on our website.

The drama festival will not be able to go ahead with an audience, instead we hope to be able to record each House performance and show them to students in tutor groups on the last day.

We have had to cancel the carol service at the Church on the last day. It wouldn't make sense for us to have moved assemblies to being virtual and then bring the whole school together for singing on the last day of term.

Presentation evening (awards ceremony for year 11 and 13 form last year), unfortunately, will be cancelled. The number of different families and potential contacts packed into the Main Hall is not consistent with trying to reduce social contact. I have written separately to the families of award winners.

Uniform



The majority of our students wear their uniforms smartly and I thank you for your support in this. However, there are still occasions where some students aren't quite hitting the mark. From Monday, when Heads of Year and Senior staff welcome students into school in the morning, they will be checking uniform and speaking to people with uniform faults and recording names. We want our school to be as smart as possible and I feel confident that our students will do what they usually do and meet our expectations.

Mocks

Year 11 mocks are drawing to a close and Year 11 have been amazing. The examinations have been packed into a short period to enable us to reduce disruption and the amount of time students are out of lessons. Teachers will be making a start on marking the mocks and will be able to feedback scores (not grades initially) after Christmas. Year 11 will receive their mock grades on a single piece of paper at the mock results event on Thursday 20th January in school. Year 13 are gearing up for their mocks which start after Christmas. A huge well done to Year 11 and 13, they are doing so well.

End of term and start of the new term

The last day for students will be Friday 17th December and we finish at 12.45. Students who usually catch DHSB buses will be able to do so on the 17th right after they have left school. If you would like us to supervise your child until 3.30pm on Friday 17th December, please do get in touch with your child's head of year.

Students are asked to continue taking two lateral flow tests each week whilst on holiday.

The first day back after Christmas will be Tuesday 4th January. You will have read that schools have been asked to supervise students taking a lateral flow test on their return to school. We will send out the consent details like we did before and plan for this to take place on Tuesday 4th January before lessons start. We would be grateful if you would organise for your child to take a lateral flow test on Sunday 2nd January. This would reduce the potential transmission of Covid-19 in school as anyone who tested positive would remain in isolation unless a negative PCR test result came back. I thank you for your understanding and support.

Very best wishes,



Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.