



2 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you well.

In my letter this week, I have a few updates for you regarding the end of term and a few general messages.

Christmas activities

Christmas lunch for students will be held across two separate days this year. On Thursday 8th December, Christmas lunch will be offered to Years 10,11,12 and 13 in the refectory. Years 7, 8 and 9 will be offered a Christmas lunch in the refectory on Tuesday 13th December. Students will be sent a Teams form via email to record if they would like a Christmas lunch. It is important that they complete this so that we know how many lunches to prepare.

Students not having the Christmas lunch will be able to buy their lunch from Bertha's where there will be a variety of meal choices. Students in receipt of a free school meal will be able to select from choices at Bertha's or have a Christmas lunch on the day assigned to their year group. Students having packed lunch on the Christmas lunch days will be able to eat their food in their tutor room. On all other days, eating in tutor rooms is not permitted.

The price of the Christmas lunch will be £2.45 and will include the main meal and a pudding. The price will not include a drink. The main meal at Bertha's on the 8th and 13th December will be a Pasta/Jacket option along with a cake and drink for those who do not wish to have a Christmas meal.

The Drama Festival is on Thursday 15th December and the final assembly and carol concert is on the 16th December. Sixth form students are not required to be in school on these two days unless they are involved in these events. School will finish on Friday 16th December at 1.25pm. The DHSB buses will arrive at PHSG at 1.35pm. If parents would like us to provide a safe place for their child to wait until 3.30pm on 16th December, please contact your child's head of year directly so that we can make appropriate provision.

We will have a mufti day on Thursday 15th December, but Friday 16th December is a full uniform day. There is no expectation of a contribution for this mufti day, but should families want to contribute, it will be put with the money raised on Christmas jumper day.

Christmas jumper day will be on Thursday 8th December. The idea here is that students wear full school uniform (blazer not essential on this day) and their choice of Christmas jumper. Students will be able to make a voluntary contribution for the day. The money raised will go towards local charitable work designed to help those facing hardship as a result of the cost of living crisis. Like all mufti days, it is up to students to decide if they wish to take part.

The Christmas tree is now up in Newman Hall. We had a fir tree growing at the back of our site that had to be removed to allow new cabling to be laid. Rather than discarding the tree, we have put it up inside school in pride of place. We have decorated it with berries from a holly bush on site and a set of lights. However, it would look even better with decorations. We are inviting students to make or bring in decorations for the tree - consistent with the theme of repair, reuse or recycle. Students may repurpose any items they have at home that are no longer needed, make decorations out of materials that they have to hand, or bring in decorations that they already have. The more creative the better!

From Monday 5th December, students should take their decorations to the library. There will also be a workshop and space in the library each day to make decorations and it would be helpful if students could bring in their own materials. At the end of term, we would like to donate the tree to a local charity for the Christmas period - if students have any ideas they should let their tutor know.

Lost property

We have a significant amount of lost property which is not named so have not been able to reunite the items with their owners. If your child has lost anything, please encourage them to come to the reception to see if it has been handed in. The reception staff will also be displaying the lost property in the main corridor from the 8th December through to the 13th December for students to collect. Anything unclaimed after this date we will either be added to our pre-loved uniform shop or taken to a local charity shop as we are running out of room to store it.

Attendance

We all know that good attendance is a crucial part of being successful in school. We also know that occasionally it can be tricky to decide if your child is well enough for school. The NHS have put together a useful fact sheet to help parents decide. Please click [here](#) to read the advice from the NHS.

Students staying in school after 3.30pm

If students wish to stay in school after 3.30pm, they are welcome to do so. Sixth form students are welcome to stay in the sixth form study centre after 3.30pm, but must leave when the sixth form team leave. The sixth form team are usually around in school until 5pm, but not always. All students, including sixth formers, are welcome to use the library after school. The library is staffed until 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and until 4.15pm on Friday (unless school is closing early, for example at the end of term). Students must report to the library (or the sixth form study centre for sixth formers) if they wish to remain in school after 3.30pm to ensure that we know who is on site. The only exception to this would be students who are attending a club with a member of staff. Thank you in advance for emphasising this important point with your child(ren).

We return to school after the Christmas break on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 for a normal school day.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Underdown', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Simon Underdown.
Headteacher.