

Friday 10th December

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of term, there are some updates for you to be aware of.

End of Term

We finish for the Christmas break on **Wednesday 22nd December at 12.30pm**. Students will have lunch and then leave school at this time.

Covid Testing

We have recently been informed by the Department for Education (DfE) that as part of our Covid safety measures, we must conduct "mass Lateral Flow Testing" before students are able to return to school after Christmas. With that in mind, students who have been given permission will take the Lateral Flow Test (LFT) in school. The test would be carried out by external staff who have been trained to do this. In the summer we conducted almost 1000 tests in total.

The testing must take place before normal lessons begin. We have therefore decided to have two INSET days in the week we return to school to be able to do the mass testing. This will ensure that we have a smoother start to school without any staggering of year groups.

Please use this link to give permission for us to LFT your child in January. [Lateral Flow Consent](#).

INSET Days and Start of Term

The INSET days will be **Thursday 6th January and Friday 7th January**. We will focus on training for all staff around ensuring we continue to improve. These days have been taken from later in the year and brought forward to January.

You may be aware that there is an additional Bank Holiday next year to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Schools are able to allocate this bank holiday to their own school calendar and we have taken the decision to have ours on **Wednesday 5th January**.

This will mean all students return to us on **Monday 10th January**, with no staggered start for mass testing.

These dates are a change, it is important to note that these are days we have moved from later in the year and are not extra days, where we are not open for students.

Year 11 Parents Evening

This will now be held on Thursday 13th January, 4.00pm to 6.00pm. We will write to you directly with details of this before the end of term.

Headteacher's Video Update

I have a video update planned for Wednesday 15th December at 5.30pm where I can update you on our work this half term and priorities for the Spring term. As always I will take any questions of queries you may have. During this update, we will give you key information on our school's approach to Sex and Relationships Education, which is taught through our Community & Culture curriculum and will begin in the Spring Term. If you have any questions regarding this, I encourage you to attend the call. [Click here to join the meeting](#).

As always please contact school if you need to and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mr. D Lancaster
Head Teacher