

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

With a week to go before we break up for Christmas can I first of all thank you for the donations to our Salvation Army Appeal. We have quite a lot of toys and other goods to deliver on Monday and I am sure these will be very much appreciated by the Salvation Army and ultimately the families who receive them. The theme of our Christmas Assemblies next week is 'Kindness at Christmas' and this appeal is kindness in action. Thank you to Mrs Beesley for co-ordinating the appeal in school.

### Free School Meals

For those children in receipt of free school meals there will provision over the Christmas holidays in the form of the Edenred vouchers that we have got used to over the past couple of years. A voucher for £30 per child to cover the two weeks will be made available in the usual way.

### End Of term

Term will end at 1.30pm on Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a slightly altered day with no mentor time at the start of the day but 3 shorter lessons until 11.25. We will then have an extended break/early lunch until 12.00 where hot sandwiches will be available in the dining room alongside other products. This will be followed by period 4 and then a 40 minute mentor time where students will be able to celebrate the end of term with mentors.

We are encouraging all students and staff to wear 'Festive dress' on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December to raise funds for our school charity - MIND.

Charity Fundraising  
**Festive Dress**

Jumpers  
Hats and headbands  
Socks  
Tights

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December - £1

## Start of next term

We are obviously in uncertain times again with the spread of the new Covid variant and new measures introduced by the Government. The current plan for the return in January is:

January 4<sup>th</sup> Year 11 students come into school as normal, are tested during period 1 if we have consent and then continue with normal class for the rest of the day.

All other students will come in just for testing at the following times and then go home. They will then start school as normal on Wednesday January 5<sup>th</sup>. They do not need to wear uniform when they come in for the test.

10.15-11.30	Year 7
11.30-12.30	Year 8
1.00-2.00	Year 9
2.00-3.00	Year 10

Please ask all students to do a lateral flow test before they come to school for the school based test and if it is positive do not send them into school but arrange for a PCR test.

Currently any close contacts of a confirmed Omicron case are expected to self isolate for 10 days but that guidance is expected to change soon and revert to lateral flow test daily for 10 days.

Please also ensure that students return to school with correct uniform and no jewellery/piercings/hairstyles etc that would breach school rules.

## Year 11

Year 11 will have mock exams in January and so they should be revising thoroughly in preparation for these. You will receive the outcomes from the recent mocks in English, Maths and Science at the end of next week. I did speak to all Year 11 this week and said that the absolute focus has to be on learning and allowing others to learn in this final 6 months. There will therefore be very much a zero tolerance policy with any poor or challenging behaviour.

## Detentions

When we return to school in January there will be one change to how we run detentions. We will continue to have detentions on one night per week for each year group with the Headteacher's detention on a Friday. However for any student who is timed out of a lesson (grade 1 on Synergy) there will be a same day 20 minute detention.

## Kooth

Kooth is an online tool we use to support mental health. Please find attached a guide for parents and carers. The guide is about early warning signs, top tips on how to talk to children about their feelings and accessing Kooth if needed.

## Finally

Yesterday evening 30 Year 8 students went to the Theatre in Salford with English staff to see 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. The Chronicles of Narnia are wonderful stories, reminding us all of the value and wonder of reading. I would encourage all our students to be reading over the holidays and books are also fantastic presents. If any plans need to change with the ongoing pandemic I will of course communicate those to you but otherwise this will be the last letter before the holidays. I wish you and all your families a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas time.

With best wishes.



Andrew Waller  
Headteacher