

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

After careful consideration we have made the decision to re-arrange some of our events across the festive season. This is to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and decrease the chances of members of the school community having to self-isolate over the Christmas period.

The Christmas carol concert, scheduled for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, will now be an online pre-recorded event. It is important that the students involved get the opportunity to showcase their talent and help us celebrate Christmas. The event will be recorded next week, we will then share a link to the recording on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The staff panto, which was scheduled for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December is being postponed, with a new date to be announced in term 3. Staff are, quite rightly, very keen to share this with students and parents in due course.

The presentation evening which was scheduled for the first week back after the holiday, will also be re-arranged. I will be writing to the parents of those involved in this event to explain our plans to celebrate the achievements of our students.

For the last two weeks of term, we will continue to be vigilant and careful in school. Assemblies will now be online to reduce large groups being together. We will also continue to monitor case numbers in school and adjust our approach on face coverings as required. We will let you know of any changes as they happen.

In the meantime, we continue to expect all staff, students and visitors to wear a mask in communal areas. As previously staff and students are welcome to wear them in lessons, but we will not enforce this. This is in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance.

This week we also received guidance from the DfE about COVID-19 testing after the Christmas break. Before returning to the classroom all students will be asked to complete one lateral flow test in school. We will be writing to you with more details about this before the holiday. However, I wanted to let you know the planned days for different year groups as soon as possible.



We will have a staggered return in January, with students being invited in to do their tests at allotted times, and then going straight to lessons. We cannot process all students in one day; therefore, we will be inviting students in on the following dates:

| <b>Date</b>                            | <b>Year groups tested and in school</b> |
|--|---|
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022   | Year 11 and JMF6 students               |
| Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 | Year 9 and Year 10 students             |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022  | Year 7 and Year 8 students              |

Students who have a delayed start will be sent work by their teachers to complete at home. This will be set through EPrise. More details will follow in due course.

Thank you for your continued support. We continue to be proud of our students, who have been superb in their approach to both their learning, and their contribution to the school community.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke  
Head of School



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