



9 December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As you may have seen in the media, schools are being given the option to close a day earlier for the Christmas break. This is to avoid notifying families on Christmas Eve that a student of the school needs to self-isolate, in other words our 'track and trace system' will cease to operate on 23 December. We will therefore start our Christmas break after Christmas lunch on Thursday 17 December, year groups will have their lunch separately and be dismissed as follows:

On Thursday 17 December students will be dismissed after their lunch in the following order:
Year 7 - 12:50pm; Year 8 - 1pm; Year 9 - 1:20pm; Year 10 - 1: 50pm; Year 11 2pm.
The sixth form will break up at 12:25pm

Schools were only given this option by the government yesterday, so I am notifying you of our intentions at the earliest possible time. However, I am sure you would want to know about a child that needed to self-isolate before making journeys to other households (to protect grandparents and other elderly family members) before Christmas Eve.

It is unfortunate that his decision has been left to headteachers, and some schools will opt not to change their original plans for the end of term. However, I feel this is the right decision for us, I want to avoid families having to change Christmas plans at the last minute and ensure that the staff responsible for track and trace can start their break on 24 December.

We will take steps in the new year to make up the teaching time lost due to this early closure.

May I, as always, thank you for your support, lets hope that in the New Year we look towards 2021 with much greater optimism.

Stay safe and take care.

Yours faithfully

Martyn Henson
Headteacher



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