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9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday, the Department for Education gave its guidance on **End of term planning**. In accordance with this guidance the **Academy will be closed to students on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of December** as it will be an additional INSET day. This will be the same for all schools who were due to finish their term on the 18<sup>th</sup>. This is to ensure that schools are not having to continue track and tracing from Christmas Eve onwards in the holiday period. The DFE have asked us to share with you the following:

- *Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace*
- *For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.*
- *School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.*

If you need to report to us that your son/ daughter has tested positive, you can do this up to and including Wednesday December 23<sup>rd</sup> by using the link for reporting absence in Edulink. We will check these notifications between 8 and 9am each day until the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. You can then contact us again from January 4<sup>th</sup> if your son/ daughter has tested positive for Covid.

The last day of term therefore, will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of December. The plan for that day will be that all year groups will come in at their normal time and then have period 1 as a normal lesson as per their timetable. Period 2 they will have a tutor time and then leave to go home for their holidays at the start of lunch - Yr7 at 11am, Yr8 at 11.45am, Yr9 at 12.30pm, Yr10 at 11.45am, Yr11 at 12.30pm and Yrs 12 & 13 at 11am.

Thank you for your continued support. The students have really been a credit to you all this term in how well they have adapted and how hard they have worked. They will certainly deserve their break when it comes. Please watch out for our Newsletter which will be send out early next week to celebrate this extraordinary term.

Kind regards

**Mark Little**  
*Principal*