



Bulletin – Friday 11 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been a challenging one for our staff, with a number of them required to self-isolate. Your child may have mentioned that, as a result, they have had a number of cover teachers for their lessons. We know this is not ideal, however we have had to make a choice between staying open to all five year groups which involves using a lot of cover, or being able to staff all lessons with permanent staff but closing to one or two year groups. On balance, we took the decision that it is important that our students maintain their school routine, and important for you as parents and carers that we minimise the disruption caused by having children learning at home. Our staff will begin to return to us next week and the amount of cover should decrease accordingly. We consider ourselves fortunate as a school that we have managed to remain open to all of our students throughout the term, except when they have been required to self-isolate.

I would also add that our approach to requesting staff to self-isolate is to be as cautious as possible and minimise the risk to your children. We know how important it is to all of us that no one is identified as a close contact next week, due to the impact on family Christmases. For that reason, if your child has any symptoms that may be Covid related, please do keep them off and inform the school office for the benefit of the whole community. Thank you for your continued support in contacting school regarding all issues related to Covid-19. It has made a huge difference to our ability to respond effectively.

Light Up a Life

Thank you for your incredible support for St. Rocco's. We have raised £297, which is our highest ever total and comes in the face of challenging times for all of us. We have contacted St. Rocco's, who are delighted with the donation. We have filmed our Advent Service around the trees commemorating those who are remembered on them. We expect the service to be available on our website and our social media pages on Monday evening

Friday 18th December

You may have heard the announcement in the week that schools have been given the option to change Friday 18th December to an Inset Day and close to pupils, in exchange for a day elsewhere in the year. We are not going to be doing this and will remain open. We felt that it was too short notice for you as families to adapt to and that, as we finish as 12.30 anyway, there would be greater disruption by adding the day back in elsewhere for students. In the event that any of you have booked an



early summer holiday, we didn't think you would welcome us suddenly announcing that we were actually going to be open later in July. We will, therefore, stick with our published term dates.

In terms of the last day itself, please remember that there is an early finish time as follows:

Year 7: 12.10

Year 9: 12.15

Year 10: 12.20

Year 8: 12.25

Year 11: 12.30

Christmas Lunch

A reminder that Christmas lunch is being served on Wednesday 16th December. This should now be available to book for the majority of students on the Fusion App but form teachers will also be taking orders in person prior to 16th. We have a limited supply and this is always a lovely event – even if we are having to do it slightly differently this year – but if students are intending to join in, pre booking really helps our kitchen staff plan for the best possible service.

Christmas Markets

Christmas Markets will be taking place on Thursday 17th December during students' lunch time. In order to minimise the handling of money, all items will be priced at 50p or £1. Ideally, students should come with money in amounts that will enable them to buy things without requiring too much change to minimise the handling of money. We will have a money exchange where students can swap amounts for disinfected money to enable them to purchase items safely if they need this service. It's always a very enjoyable event and, although we can't do it on the same scale as most years, we hope the students will enjoy their year group markets.

Donations for the Food Bank

Thank you for all of your donations to the Food Bank: Year 8 are currently leading the way! If you are able to donate any items to the Food Bank in exchange for a raffle ticket in our prize draw, students should bring the items to their pastoral hub before 9am on Thursday 17th December.



Christmas Jumper – non uniform day

On Thursday 17th December it is Christmas Jumper Day. In response to student questions, we just wanted to clarify what students can wear. Ideally, students will wear non-uniform with a festive jumper or top to add some Christmas spirit to our day of celebration. If they do not have a festive jumper or top then students are permitted to wear a 'normal' jumper as an alternative as we really do not want parents to feel you need to purchase something specially. Jumpers are, however, the only alternative permitted. If your child is uncertain about what they intend to wear, please get in touch with their Head of Year.

No period 6 in the last week of term

Finally, a reminder to Year 11 students and their parents that period 6 will not run in the last week of term. Students return to school on Tuesday 5th January and period 6 will resume on Wednesday 6th January. If any student is missing their additional hour of learning, they are always welcome to download some extra podcasts from GCSE Pod. We've had a really good uptake from Year 11 and, now Year 10 have also got their logins, we hope to see the use of this programme increasing even further.