

December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The boiler in the Annexe requires an urgent replacement. The work will take three weeks. Therefore the Annexe will be closed to students for the last week of this term for reasons of Health and safety whilst the contractors are on site.

ALL pupils are invited to attend Christmas lunch on Thursday 16th December 2021. We will be in touch early next week to inform you of the arrangements for that day. Thank you for your continued support.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

We have had to make some changes to our start of term arrangements for January 2022. These are in response to the Department for Education's recent request that all secondary school students receive two negative lateral flow tests for Covid-19 when returning to school in January (3-5 days apart). The tests are voluntary, however we strongly recommend families continue to support testing to prevent disruption once students return. All students will be tested unless you decide to opt out- this can be done by contacting the school before your child's planned return date.

To accommodate the testing programme in school, and allow staff to carry out their usual start of term duties, we will need to operate a staggered start to the term where certain year groups come into school for their lateral flow tests and return to education on specific days. The year groups will return to school as follows:

- Year 7 and Year 8 - Wednesday 5th January
- Year 9 and Year 10 - Thursday 6th January
- Year 11 - Friday 7th January

If a student receives a positive lateral test result in school the parent/carer will be notified by telephone straight away. If your child's test is negative, you will not be notified. Positive cases will then need to take a 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School can provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a test. If you order a PCR test yourself, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

Whilst students are waiting for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to self-isolate following the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

Thank you for your support. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your child a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R M Davies
Headteacher