



December 2020

End of Term Arrangements

Dear Family

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your support through this challenging term. I would also like to thank the students who have shown great strength and resilience in what is an uncertain world.

We have been very fortunate to have had so few cases of the COVID pandemic in our Academy and have managed to stay open for the majority of our students. Despite the challenges we have had a really good term. Year 7 students have settled into the Academy well and Year 8 have shown great spirit this term in dealing with all of the changes. This letter contains an important announcement about the end of term as well as some general information about the last few days of term.

Change in End of Term Date

Although we have been able to remain open, the Government have, yesterday, encouraged schools to use one of their training days on the last scheduled day of term. This is to ensure there is as much time as possible between finishing and the opportunity for families to visit together during the holiday season. We have decided to take advantage of this opportunity and therefore:

The Academy will close on Thursday 17th December 2020 at the normal time of 3:10 for Year 7 and 3:25 for Year 8. There will be no afterschool activities on this day.

We apologise for the short notice but this is something that the Government have only just informed us of.

Festive Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December we will be having a festive jumper day where students can wear a festive jumper instead of their shirt and tie. This costs a donation of £1 for the charity Save the Children. If students only have a festive t-shirt, this could be worn with the Academy blazer. Trousers and shoes should remain as Academy uniform. Students who choose not to take part should remain in Academy uniform, this is not a general non-uniform day.

Sharing of Food and Gifts

During the holiday season we often see students giving each other gifts and cards and bringing in things to share. We would highlight two things. Firstly, students should not bring in anything where people have to reach into the same bag e.g. crisps, bags of sweets as this has an increased risk of spreading COVID if there was to be a case. If you are not sure what would be acceptable, please ask your form tutor.

Secondly a reminder we have a number of students who have very severe nut allergies, please ensure anything you bring onto our campus is nut free.

How to Report COVID-19 Cases During the School Holidays

- **If your child develops symptoms within 48 hours of being in school:**
 - For example: your child develops symptoms on Thursday 17, Friday 18 or Saturday 19 December
 - Contact us at covid@shirelandcat.net

When you email, you must tell us:

- Your name and your child's name
 - State the child is from West Bromwich Collegiate Academy
 - Year Group
 - The date symptoms started/date of positive test (if your child has had one)
- **If your child develops symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school:**
 - For example: your child develops symptoms on Tuesday 22 December.
 - Follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
 - Contact the school on Monday 4 January to inform them of your child's absence due to self-isolation.

We will have duty staff available past the end of term who will pass this information to the Principal. We would then send out an alert to affected students by text and email explaining the situation. Please note our offices will be closed over Christmas so this is the best way to contact the Academy.

Return to School

The Academy will reopen to all students at the same normal times for each year group on Monday January 4th 2021.

Final Message

While this has been a challenging term, it also has had great moments of joy and success with our students. None of the staff came into teaching to talk about masks and social distancing but to help lead and shape our young people and much of what we have seen from the students this year has been exceptional.

As we approach a new year, with the hope of returning to normality, we are confident that as an Academy 2021 will be a fantastic year, full of opportunity and happiness.

I wish you all a relaxing break and a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

George Faux
Principal