

17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have finally reached the end of our busy term. Well done to our students for their hard work over the last few months. It has been a productive and successful term for many of them.

We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing our students in the new year.

The term, however, ends as it began with COVID 19 dominating our preparations for the new term. Please ensure you read the information below which sets our plans for the first two days of term in January. The return to school in January will be guided by the national situation over Christmas related to the Omicron variant and level of COVID 19 cases.

COVID Planning Days - Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th January

We have received communication from the Welsh Government this morning that all schools in Wales have been provided with **two planning days** at the start of the next term. Therefore, students will now return to school on **Thursday 6th January**.

Tuesday 4th January and **Wednesday 5th January** will be used by school staff to assess staffing capacity and put in place all the necessary measures to support the return of students after Christmas. The Welsh Government has stated that depending on the staffing situation in individual schools, there may be a requirement to move to remote learning for individual year groups or for the whole school from **Thursday 6th January** onwards. There may, of course, be further announcements on national measures over the Christmas period,

In essence, nobody knows what the situation is going to be after Christmas and the Welsh Government has given schools two days at the start of term to prepare for the worst case scenario. However, if the situation is more positive, then all students will return to school as planned on **Thursday 6th January**.

COVID Planning Days - Free School Meals

Students in receipt of free school meals will be provided with electronic vouchers direct from the Local Authority for these two days,

Lateral Flow Tests for the return to school in January

The Welsh Government strongly advises that students take lateral flow tests **3 times** a week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings) commencing the week before they return to school in January.

January External Exams

It is expected that exams will continue as planned for those sitting their BTEC module exams in January.

Face Coverings

Please could you support the school by ensuring that your child has a reusable face covering when they return to school. This has been part of our mitigation measures all year, but we are still having to provide an incredible amount of disposable masks to many of our students on a daily basis.

Positive COVID-19 tests

If your child tests positive over the Christmas period, please can you still let the school know using the normal process. Email you results to the usual email address:

Covid19@stjuliansschool.co.uk

Track and Trace will take on the responsibility of tracing contacts over the Christmas period; however, the information you provide to the school will help us to understand the prevalence of COVID 19 amongst our students when we return to school and to note any isolation periods.

Further information

I will write to parents again on Wednesday 5th January 2022 to give you an update on our plans for the new term. We will, at that time, have a clearer picture on the national situation regarding COVID 19.

Merry Christmas!

Yours faithfully



Mr. D. Curtis
Headteacher/Pennaeth