



The Chantry School



EXCELLENCE IN ALL | EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

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Dear Parents / Carers

9th December 2021

As we approach the end of term I would like to remind you about the end of term routines in the next week or so, and inform you of a change to the start of next term.

End of Term

Term ends next Friday, 17th December. Pupils will have 2 lessons in the morning, followed by time in their form groups when tutors will be ensuring some suitable Christmas themed enjoyment. Arrangements will vary by tutor group and your child will be able to tell you more about their specific arrangements. It is an early finish on Friday and buses will have left the school site by 12:40 pm.

We are going to support the 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day on 17th December. Pupils may, if they wish, replace their blazer and jumper with a Christmas jumper, with all other items of uniform remaining the same. You are invited to make a donation to Save the Children via our usual online payments, or by cash on the day. Note that Save the Children (and we) are keen that you do not rush out to buy a new jumper. Please use anything that is in Christmas colours, or take an old jumper and cover with decorations. You can see the good work that Save the Children do here: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do>

January Start / Covid Testing

You will be well aware of increased measures from Government around coronavirus. One of these includes the need for schools to carry out on-site lateral flow testing in January when pupils return. We already hold consents for a large number of pupils, and invites will be sent separately to those for whom we do not.

The consequence of this requirement is that we need to delay the start of term for Y7 and Y8 as we cannot test all pupils on one day. Hence the first day of term will be as follows:

Tuesday 4th January Y9, Y10 and Y11

Wednesday 5th January Y7, Y8

All pupils with consent will be invited to take an on-site lateral flow test on their first day.

Whilst this is welcome and sensible from Government, I do hope that everyone will also be able to test at home before they come to the school site. We suggest that all pupils take a test 48 hours before returning to school, in addition to the lateral flow test at school. Thus, Y9,10 and Y11 are suggested to take a test on Sunday 2nd January and Y7 and Y8 on Monday 3rd January. Any pupil not taking part in on-site testing should take a test immediately before their return to school, as they would on a normal Sunday evening / Monday morning.

Home test kits are in the process of being reissued this week. Please ensure your child has a spare one to use prior to their return to school. Additional kits can be obtained from pharmacies, or see this link: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

We all hope that this is a temporary situation. As ever, I am grateful to all of you for your part in keeping the school community safe.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Dickenson
Headteacher