



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are now in the final two weeks of the year I wanted to write and share a few key messages with parents and carers. It has been a busy term that has seen many aspects of school life take a stride forward. Our young people have responded well to the earlier start time this term, with attendance and punctuality to school improving on last year. Form Time reading has embedded quickly into our daily routines, and I am pleased to report that I have seen further improvement in the quality of teaching and learning. In our recent learner perception surveys, our young people's perception of the quality of their learning has shown a 5-10% increase in most categories. Parents now have access to the key learning within the curriculum, both in the knowledge organiser booklets that all KS3 learners carry (next term's booklets will be issued in January) or via our website [Here](#).

In Key Stage 4 we have been impressed with how Year 10 have started their GCSE and vocational courses; they have done so well. I also cannot ignore the outstanding work ethic of our Year 11 learners – in their lessons, in their mock exams and in their additional study support classes. This is a group of learners who arrived with us in a bubble and have gone from strength to strength. I cannot express how proud we are of them and all that they are doing to ensure that they reach their full potential. Keep going Year 11, you've got this.

End of Term

The school closes for Christmas break on **Friday 20th December at 12.30pm**. There will be an extended, later, break time that will allow students to have lunch before they leave on this day. The 944-school bus service collection time has been amended to accommodate the early finish.

School re-opens for all years at 8.30am on Monday 6th January 2025.

The Switch to Arbor

In the new year we will be moving our Management Information System (MIS) from SIMS to Arbor. This means that parents will receive communication about their children through Arbor and not Synergy. Information currently held in Synergy will be stored in school, but we ask for your patience as we make the switch to Arbor. Next week further information will be sent about these changes and how they affect you.

Working Together

The run up the Christmas is the longest half-term of the year and can be challenging as nights draw in and the weather often takes a turn for the worse. To keep everything running smoothly, I would ask parents to focus on supporting us in the following ways:

1. **Uniform.** Checking your children leave for school in full school uniform.
2. **Attendance.** Taking a 'bracing approach' to attendance, encouraging your children to attend school daily.
3. **Punctuality.** To both school and lessons. Too many students chose to visit the toilet after the bell at the end of breaks or in the first few minutes of a lesson after a break time. Please support us in challenging this as it is disruptive to the running of the school.
4. **Equipment.** Please ensure that your child arrives in school with basic stationery, a school bag, their planner and PE kit, when appropriate, each day.



Internal Truancy

Since the end of the pandemic many schools have reported a surge in internal truancy that disturbs learning for others. At our school this has been a very small minority. We have worked hard to ensure that barriers to learning have been removed and that there is no reason for any young person to be on the corridors instead of in lessons and learning. Our pastoral team have ensured that our learners have trusted adults and strategies to support them when things go wrong. I am very confident that there is now absolutely no reason for anyone to be out of class and disturbing the learning of the overwhelming majority. As a result, the school is now adopting a zero-tolerance approach to internal truancy that disturbs the learning of others. I share this with all parents as a reassurance of our commitment to putting learning first.



Thank you

In closing may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as we work together to make our school the best that it can be.



We wish you a wonderful break over the Christmas period and a very happy new year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr N S Coe
Headteacher

