

Our Ref MDI/WDA  
Date: 04 12 2020



Dear parents and carers,

### **Covid-19 update**

The weeks are going by so quickly and whilst it is pleasing to hear that the virus is starting to decline in the Northwest we have still had positive cases reported from staff and students this week. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing a safe and speedy recover to any member of our school community who has suffered due to the virus this term.

As we begin to look to term two I will write to you next week with amendments in place for after Christmas, please be rest assured that I regularly review the school risk assessment and look to implement any changes that will help to mitigate the risk further. I will also be explaining the process in place should you need to report a positive case during the Christmas break so do look out for this.

### **Department for Education update**

Yesterday the DfE issued guidance regarding the examination series 2021 and this a will come as a welcome relief to Year 11 and their parents. Next week Mr Collins and I will speak to students to explain the recent information which in summary is as below:

- A full set of GCSE examinations will be taking place next summer, with the main examination period being from 7 June until 2 July.
- The generosity in grading applied to the 2020 series will be applied to 2021 to ensure that students are treated fairly in relation to those who received results in 2020.
- Advance notice will be given of some topic areas to help focus revision. We expect to receive this in January and teachers will pass it on to students and parents as soon as it has been made available.
- Some supporting materials, such as formula sheets, will be given to students for reference during the examination. Again, further details about these will be made available in January.
- If you have to miss some or all of the papers because of illness or self-isolation, but have completed sufficient non examined assessment, you will be able to be awarded a grade through the special consideration process. Medical evidence will be needed to support this.
- There will be a contingency examination series for those students who miss papers in a subject because of self-isolation and illness. This will take place between 28 June and 16 July, so please do not plan any holidays for this period.

The full detailed guidance can be found here: [DfE Guidance on GCSE/ GCE examinations - Summer 2021](#)

### **End of term/Christmas activities**

As with everything this year things will be slightly different as we head towards the end of term. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December will be Christmas Jumper day, we are asking all staff and students to wear a Christmas Jumper and contribute a £1. It is a normal uniform day - with the opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper for charity. There is no pressure on anyone to buy a jumper for the purpose of the day. Christmas dinner will also be served in the final week and we will hold celebration (virtual)



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assemblies in recognition of all the amazing work students have completed this term. Please also look out for our termly Newsletter which will be sent out before the end of term. Term ends on Friday 18th December. Lessons will continue as usual on the Friday. We will have our usual finish around lunch time and we will have staggered departures from school on that day. I will circulate further details next week.

I think that is all for this week

With kind regards and sincere thanks for your continued trust and support

Mrs M Dillon

Principal



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