

Principal's Message - Week Ending 11 12 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19

There were 3 new reported positive cases of COVID-19 in school this week, affecting Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11 students, alongside a number of staff. The overall number of reported positive cases in the school since September remains low.

We have this afternoon had the good news that the period of self-isolation is reducing to 10 days; this means that the vast majority of our self-isolating students will be able to return to school/normal life on Monday 14 December. A separate ParentMail will be sent this afternoon clarifying this for all affected families.

School will now close for Christmas on Thursday 17 December, instead of Friday 18 December

Following the Government announcement this week that schools may choose to close a day early at the end of this term because of the COVID-19 situation, we have decided to close the school on Thursday 17 December.

We have taken this decision reluctantly, for the following reasons:

1. We now have a large number of staff absent from school and this is stretching our capacity to cope. This morning, for the first time this year, the Teacher Supply agencies were not able to meet our need for Supply teachers to cover the number of teachers who were absent and we had to ask teachers and senior leaders to do emergency cover. Even with the news that the self-isolation period is reducing to 10 days, we still face significant staffing issues as we approach Christmas.
2. Closing on Thursday will mean that no one will catch COVID-19 as a result of being in school next Friday and no one will be identified as a 'close contact' as a result of being in school next Friday
3. A number of Nursery and Primary schools may choose to shut next Thursday instead of next Friday, and this could affect our staffing capacity further as many of our staff have young children at other schools. Closing on Thursday reduces the risk of the school being unable to operate safely next Friday due to too few staff being able to attend.

Having already published our end of term arrangements, we are disappointed that we now have to change them but we hope you will understand and support our decision. There will not be an early finish on Thursday 17 December; school will finish at the normal time.

Outdoor seating fundraiser – message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

Thank you for your kind donations to our outdoor seating fundraiser. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and look forward to sharing plans for how this money will be spent in the new year. There is still time to donate using the link below. Students will also be adding their voluntary contributions of £1 for the non-uniform day on Thursday 17th December. Students may of course donate more if they wish to!

<https://www.rocketfund.org/hinchingbrooke-school-outside-seating>

Kind regards

Mark Patterson

Principal

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