



9th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

End of Term Arrangements Update

Yesterday afternoon the Department for Education (DfE) contacted schools to propose that **Friday 18th December should become an INSET Day** to bring forward the last teaching day before Christmas. I had earlier published that we were having a 12.05pm finish on Friday 18th December with a shortened day on Thursday 17th December and this has required us to re-think this at short notice.

In line with all other schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, the decision has been taken to implement the proposal of the DfE because:

- This gives an additional day of separation between the school term and Christmas family events, giving families a little extra reassurance where many children will be hoping to spend time with more vulnerable family members; this is also the case for members of staff.
- If there were to be a positive case amongst the student body confirmed in the first few days of the holidays, it gives a little more time to establish close contacts, make the necessary communications and allow families to make any necessary changes to their arrangements.
- It will mean that any school involvement in 'Test and Trace' activity will finish on 23rd December (as there is a 'six day contact tracing window'), so families will then be reassured that there is no further risk of children being identified as close contacts over the Christmas period; this is also the case for members of staff.

In consultation with the governing body overnight, we have taken the decision to keep with our finish of 1.30pm on Thursday 17th December as we are aware that families may have made plans for that afternoon which we would not want them to need to alter. As I had already published, students will have an extended break on Thursday where a full range of food will be provided for them to purchase between 11.10am and 11.40am before attending Period 3 of learning between 11.40am and 12.40pm which will be followed by a tutor period leading up to dismissal at 1.30pm. The planned assembly for Year 11 on Friday 18th December will now no longer take place.

On Wednesday 16th December, normal school uniform (or PE kit should they have a PE lesson that day) should be worn although we are happy for students to wear a Christmas jumper in place of their school jumper.

If students develop Covid-19 symptoms and subsequently test positive in the 48 hours after school finishes on Thursday 17th December (i.e. up until the end of Saturday 19th December) then it is really important that they do contact the school via nlane@chewvalleyschool.co.uk so that we can put our usual plans into place. Where a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being on site, the school should not be contacted. Staff, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace and then Public Health England will then contact the school if there is a need for us to contact any relevant students.

During the **INSET Days of Friday 18th December and Monday 4th January**, staff will be working through a variety of areas including the teaching of literacy across our curriculum, the impact of Black Lives Matters and how we continue to address this really important area with our students, and also focusing on teaching and learning when we return in the new year. Just a reminder therefore that we are expecting students back in school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with parents and carers with **Year 9 Options Evening on 12th January** followed by their **Parents' Evening on the 19th January** (both of these will be done virtually with instructions to follow) and **Year 11 Parents' Evening on 3rd February** (again virtually). We are also looking to hold some additional evenings for all parents and carers early in the new year and we will be in contact soon with details.

Can I finish by saying that we have been incredibly proud of the students in the period since September in the way in which they have approached their studies and they have been a credit to everyone. Can I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

With best wishes

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher