

9 December 2020

Dear Parents

End of Term 2 Letter & COVID update

Following on from the End of Term Arrangements letter that I sent to you all, dated 30 November 2020, I need to inform you of some COVID updates and changes to next week and the start of the Christmas holiday.

Student safety

As we move into the last days of this term, I am extremely proud of the response of the majority of our students since September. They have taken full responsibility for adhering to the new safety measures. However, as we get to the end of an exhausting term, in an area which has high levels of COVID infections, we need to make sure that we do not slack off our efforts. I would be grateful if you could discuss with your child the importance of maintaining social distancing, not touching other students, nor sharing drinks, food or masks, they need to remain in their allocated seat in class and always have a mask available should they need it. The best thing we can give our community for Christmas is good health!

COVID Track & Trace

Public Health England (PHE) has instructed Schools to continue to track and trace any positive cases for 6 days after the end of term – up to 23 December 2020. Therefore:

- For the first 6 days after school ends, if a student tests positive for Coronavirus (COVID 19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, we need to identify close contacts and advise you of self-isolation. Therefore, we need you to email covid@ntc.kent.sch.uk telling us:
 - The student's name & year group who has tested positive
 - The date symptoms started
 - The date the test was taken
 - The date the test was received
 - The date the student was last in school
 - Who the student was in close contact with on the way to school, at lunch and when they walked home
 - If there are any siblings at NTC
- Please DO NOT email any other email address with this information, as this will not be seen.
- If your child is identified as being in close contact with the positively tested student, you will be contacted and your child will need to self isolate from the date the positive student first had symptoms.
- You do not need to let the school know if a student tests positive for coronavirus, if they have developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school.

Last Day of Term – change of plans

As you know, the school had planned for the last day of term to end earlier than usual. I am sure that you have all recently heard on the news, speculation regarding the schools closing early for the Christmas Holidays. The DfE have made it perfectly clear to schools that early closing will not be tolerated. However, the DfE have announced today that schools can move a Staff Development Day and close a day early. We have consulted with all the local secondary schools and the majority will take advantage of this. Therefore, you do not need to send your child in to school on Friday 18 December 2020. We understand some parents will need their child to be in school on this day, please let the school office know and we will accommodate this for you.

Please note that it is extremely important for all students to attend school up to and including Thursday 17 December 2020 and learn from home on Friday 18 December 2020.

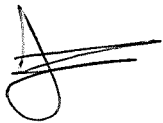
Students are required to return to school at the following times on **Monday 4 January 2021**:

Year 7 & 8	Arrival at 8.30 am
Year 9	Arrival at 8.40 am
Year 10 & 11	Arrival at 8.20 am
Year 12 & 13	Arrival at 8:30 am

I would like to thank you for your continued support in these difficult times and wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas break.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Jane Partridge
Headteacher