

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for all your support for us as a school this term. The autumn term is always one of the busiest, but we have continued to move forward as a school in many areas and the crowning of a good term was the wonderful Christmas dance show. I would just like to mention three things to our families.

### Home learning for Year 11 students

Obviously it is important that our exam year students take some time to relax and recharge with their families over the holidays. Equally, in the current uncertainty of rapidly rising infections from the Omicron Covid variant, we must learn lessons from what has happened with summer exams in the past- to be clear it is currently the plan for summer exams to proceed as normal and we really hope that it remains this way. Should there be a need to use teacher assessment to inform final grades, it is essential that students do their home learning milestones over the holidays so that they are ready to evidence their considerable talent when it comes to the next assessment point. One of my most painful memories in teaching is seeing several students, unable to sit the summer exams due to COVID, who had the potential to do much better being left with low grades- due to their lack of effort earlier in the year- that ended up limiting their life paths. You can support your year 11 child over the holidays by checking that they are sticking to their revision timetable and achieving the learning milestones that Mr Billings has written to you about.

### The return to school

Linked to the above, obviously we hope to return to school in January as per the staggered start communicated last week- please see this link <https://bit.ly/3GOIhEA> to the previous letter with details.

Should government guidance change over the holidays, we will text you to alert you, giving guidance on what to do.

### On communication

Thank you to those parents who filled in our parent survey. While the vast majority of feedback was positive, there were also several parents who said that we need to improve our communication. I value this honest feedback and it is something we need to improve in the new year. I would also like to do a focus group on this to hear your views in more detail on how we can get better at this and meet your needs more effectively- please email the school if you would like to be part of this.

I hope that you and your families have a safe and relaxing Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Kind regards



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