



'An Academy to be Proud of'

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9th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to Mr Bullen's (*Interim Director of Education - FCAT*) letter on behalf of the Trust and as you may have read in the press or seen on the national news all schools will be allowed to close a day earlier than scheduled ahead of the Christmas holidays.

Therefore, in line with government advice and guidance please be advised that Armfield Academy will be closing for the Christmas break on **Thursday 17th December 2020**:

Christmas Closing Date:

Armfield Academy will close for all students; **Nursery**, **Primary** and **Secondary** on **Thursday 17th December 2020 at the normal time.**

Reopening Date:

Armfield Academy will reopen for all students; **Nursery**, **Primary** and **Secondary** on **Monday 4th January 2021 at the normal time.**

(if your child is booked into the after-school club provision on Thursday 17th December 2020, this service will run as normal until 5.30pm)

I fully appreciate that with our younger children and our secondary students finishing a day earlier than we anticipated may cause unexpected child-care issues for some parents and carers, for which I would ask you accept my sincere apologies. However, given the current climate, I am confident that you would all agree that this is a sensible decision in order to try and keep everyone safe over the Christmas period.

As stated within Mr Bullen's letter:

To assist with contact tracing over Christmas, FCAT have set up an e-mail address which is as follows:
Covidtracing@fcat.org.uk

If you have a confirmed positive case of your child then you e-mail this address and tell us the name of the school; the name of student, their year group and the appropriate contact details for yourselves. We will then complete the process of tracing contacts they may have had at school.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to parents and carers for your understanding and continued support over the course of the last ten months. I can honestly tell you, certainly in my 27 years as an educationalist, 2020 has proved to be the most challenging of years to manage and get through. Parental support has been invaluable. We may not have got everything right but we kept going and we continue to do so. The news of a vaccine, which is already being distributed within Blackpool Victoria Hospital, is cause for celebration in itself.

Finally, I wish you and your families a really 'Happy Christmas' and let us look forward together to 2021 being a thoroughly 'Happy New Year' and a fresh start for all.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Kilmurray
Headteacher

