

Dear Families,

### End of term update

As we come to the end of this extremely challenging term, I wanted to take the opportunity to give you an update regarding the start of the new term in January.

You will no doubt be aware that the Department for Education announced yesterday that secondary schools in England will be closed to the majority of learners when we return in the New Year. This is so that schools have the time to prepare for the roll out of mass coronavirus testing.

Whilst Longdendale High School will be closed to the majority of learners from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January, school will remain open and attendance is expected for all of our Year 11 learners. As these learners are at such a critical stage of their education in terms of preparing for their final GCSE examinations it is essential that attendance to school during this time is maintained.

Provision has also been made in school for any children of parents or carers who are classed as 'critical workers', and for other individual learners who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) or who have an allocated social worker. These families have been contacted separately with further information regarding this.

For all other learners in Years 7 – 10, they will be required to remain at home for this first week in January and return to school at 8.30am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, these learners will be provided with remote learning and further information and timetables for this will be sent home on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

We also received some initial information yesterday regarding the mass testing programme, which is due to be rolled out in schools in early January. As I am sure you can appreciate there is a considerable amount of planning, preparation and training that needs to take place before this can be delivered effectively, and it is of course entirely voluntary and permission will be collected for each individual learner before this goes ahead. As soon as we have the information we need regarding this and further details of what this will look like, I will contact you again.

Despite all of the challenges of the previous term, we are immensely proud of how both our staff and learners have responded. Our learners have adapted to and engaged with all of the new ways of working with incredible resilience and positivity. Alongside the ongoing hard work and creativity of our fantastic team of highly skilled and committed staff, this has meant that our learners continue to be provided with a wide range of high quality learning experiences to support ongoing learning and progress across subjects. I hope you have had the opportunity to read our latest newsletter, which gives you a flavour of some of the successes and achievements of our learners over this term.

I would also like to extend our thanks to you, our families, for all of your support in these unprecedented times. Your understanding and appreciation of the context we are currently working in has certainly helped us manage the challenges effectively in order to support our young people in the best way possible. We have really appreciated all of your messages of support during this period and look forward to continuing to working in partnership with you in the New Year.

**Longdendale High School** Spring Street, Hollingworth, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 8LW

**Headteacher:** Mrs Andrea Jones **Interim CEO:** Mr Anton McGrath

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# Longdendale

H I G H S C H O O L

I will write to you again at the start of term with further details regarding the testing programme and an update on our whole school priorities for improvement, and the progress we have made towards these. In the meantime, I wish you and your families a safe and restful Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming all of our learners back into school in January.

Yours faithfully,

**Andrea Jones**  
Headteacher

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