

Newall Green High School  
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8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are all well and looking forward to what will hopefully be a good Christmas break for us all.

We have had an extremely busy half term: the introduction of 71 student leadership roles (including prefects, anti-bullying ambassadors, subject leaders, form captains), the completion of mock exams, our push for every student to complete a college application before Christmas and the launch of our Parent/Student Classcharts App.

I wish to thank pupils, staff, parents and carers for all your efforts in keeping school open and children learning. We have been exceptionally fortunate this half term – our pragmatic, measured and sensible approach has been successful in keeping everyone COVID-safe. However, as the winter months set in, we cannot be complacent; tougher challenges lie ahead.

#### COVID-19 update

We must all play our part in helping to keep our school safe. We continue to follow all government guidance and review our risk assessment on a regular basis. Links to current government guidance and our risk assessment can be found on the COVID section of the school website.

[www.newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/covid-19-information-for-parents](http://www.newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk/parents/covid-19-information-for-parents)

It is important that we all continue to do our part, and in that respect can I ask that:

- You continue to check that your child brings a mask with them every day to school. We can provide a disposable one if a student genuinely forgets, but we do not have enough to provide one for individual students every day. All students were given a reusable mask when they returned to school in September.
- **Students do not attend school if they, or anyone in their household, is unwell with suspected or confirmed coronavirus symptoms.**

#### Track and Trace during Christmas

We will continue to support the national Track and Trace scheme throughout Christmas. As our phone lines will not be staffed during the Christmas period, we ask that you email [admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newallgreenhigh.manchester.sch.uk) if your child:

- Has to isolate due to someone in the household either having symptoms or testing positive with COVID.
- Has displayed symptoms. You will then have to book a COVID test for them.
- Has tested positive for COVID.

In all circumstances, we will need to know the date that symptoms were first displayed – we will use this to calculate when your child needs to return to school.

#### Mock Examinations and Parents Evening

Students have completed two successful weeks of examinations – they have overcome anxieties and persevered making all their teachers proud. Initial results are encouraging, and staff are providing clear feedback so that students

understand exactly what they need to do to improve further. This will be further supported with intervention workshops that will take place in January 2021 (further details to follow closer to the time).

Given the current situation, we have had to think creatively about how we can proceed with our parents' evening. Student reports will be posted to all parents during w/b 4<sup>th</sup> January and then parents will receive a phone call the following week from your child's form tutor. During this phone call, your child's progress will be discussed, and you will be able to request 'follow up' phone calls from specific subject specialist teachers if you feel this is needed.

### End of term arrangements

In the past, attendance has traditionally seen a dip in the final week before Christmas. Given that students' learning has already been impacted with a reduction in learning time – we want to stress that 'normal lessons' will continue up to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and it is vital that students continue to attend. For Year 11, attendance is of particular importance during their final year as this figure will be included in references for any college and apprenticeship applications.

As you can appreciate, our Christmas celebrations will look very different this year due to current restrictions – however, we have worked hard to ensure that students will still enjoy some Christmas activities. We have booked a theatre company to deliver two performances of 'A Christmas Carol', not only will this be a special socially-distanced Christmas treat but it will also support them in their learning as this is one of the texts they are studying in English.

In addition, I am pleased to say that Father Christmas has made a special delivery to Newall Green High School and every student will receive 3 presents on the last day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Students are invited to attend school in Christmas dress on the last day, this can be a specific Christmas-themed outfit, a Christmas jumper or simply wearing red items of non-uniform.

### Key Dates

- Finish for Christmas: 18<sup>th</sup> December 1.15pm (grab bags will be available for students to take home)
- Return to school after half term: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- INSET Day (students not in school): Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- February half term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Should you have any concerns regarding the Christmas break, please do not hesitate to contact school before Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December and we will see what we can put in place to support you.

Have a lovely Christmas break, I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards

Mrs K Jones

Head of School