



9 December 2020

Dear parents/guardians/carers

Please can I draw your attention to the information in the school newsletter which will be released via a text link w/c 14 December which celebrates so much of the activity in school this term. It also has some important guidance regarding the spring term.

Looking ahead, there are some specific dates for your diaries:

- **Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December** - Christmas Foodbank collection for details: <https://poolehigh.co.uk/foodbank-donation-2020/>
- **Friday 18 December** - Early closure at 12.30pm and Christmas non-uniform day
- **Monday 4 January 2021** - Spring term starts 8.25am
- **Monday 4 January 2021** - Year 13 mock exams begin, Year 12 subject tests and BTEC exams

**Friday 18 December, school will close at 12.30pm** for the Christmas holiday. If you wish your son/daughter to stay for lunch, then please notify us by Monday 14 December through the Year Office. Please remember that you will be responsible for your son/daughter after this time. All students will register with their subject teacher before being dismissed. Apologies for the confusion that the DfE announcement may have caused. It would be unfair on parents to adjust to last minute changes having endured what you have!

Also, on Friday 18 December we will be asking parents to support students with a Christmas themed non-uniform day – Suggested donation to the Friends of Poole High School (collection at front gate by SLT in buckets). We recommend that students accessorise non-uniform with Christmas hats, jumpers and appropriate festive paraphernalia. A suggested contribution of £1 from each participant to support FOPHS will be appreciated. Please note that the on-site school buses (with the exception of route 401) will not be available on 18 December and students will need to use the local bus routes.

**Safety on Wimborne Road** is an increasing concern. A small number of parents are dropping their children in cycle lanes and we have had a further accident this week to a cyclist when a passenger swung a car-door open. The law on this matter is very clear and the police have told us that they will enforce the law. In addition, the use of dashcams and bodycams are being encouraged to catch drivers who are endangering lives. The number of buses on site continues to reduce the need for the number of cars accessing the site, and a text will be sent to all parents to express their views on the consultation regarding the temporary closure of Tatnam Road as so many of you have been unable to allow your children to access the rear entrance to the school on Sterte Road. Please be aware that parking in front of the police gates on either side of the police station is dangerous as they use those gates to 'blue light' from there. They have asked us to tell parents to desist from using those areas as it increases risk to children when they have an emergency call.

The **Spring Term** will begin at 8.25am on Monday 4 January 2021. Please ensure that your son/daughter arrives promptly to school each day, ready to start at 8.25am in full school uniform and has a fully equipped pencil case including a calculator.

A reminder that in the unlikely event of school closure due to extreme weather conditions, a school text/email will be sent out to parents, a message will be placed on the school website, the school will notify the Borough of Poole as well as local radio stations (Heart and Wave 105).

**Safety over Christmas** I am aware that, in the last week of term if any classes, or year groups are told they need to isolate, then this would require isolation over the Christmas period. I am keen to ensure that all pupils, staff and their families can experience an enjoyable Christmas and I do not want to find myself in a position of having to phone parents during the first week of the holiday with news that students need to isolate because of positive cases within a 'bubble'. None of us wish to prevent you from being able to enjoy Christmas with others in your chosen three household bubble, but it is possible that we may have to deliver this message on behalf of 'Track and Trace' if cases arise.

**Please therefore do not allow students to congregate, let alone stay over with friends. If one of our senior team contacts you in that last week of term or during the Christmas holiday, your child and your family may be required to isolate following the current government guidelines. This means, if your child tests positive, they would have to isolate for 10 days from the date symptoms started.** The rest of the household would have to isolate for 14 days from that date. Those children who have been identified as a close contact with the confirmed case would be required to isolate for 14 days. If this happens in the last week of term, this would require isolation over Christmas with a potential £1000 fine if this is not adhered to.

In order to reduce the possibility of new cases and to minimise the impact on families, I ask that you support our school by ensuring you and your family follow the Tier 2 restrictions carefully [https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19\\_Tier\\_Posters\\_2020\\_Final\\_High.pdf](https://poolehigh.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19_Tier_Posters_2020_Final_High.pdf).

Please remain vigilant and do not take any undue risks at this time. If your child is unwell and showing any one of the three Covid symptoms <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>, please err on the side of caution and keep your child at home. We will authorise all sickness absence during this period based on parental judgement.

As always, thank you for working with us and your commitment in making our community such a special place. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gray', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mr P Gray  
Headteacher