



Wellfield Academy

Executive Headteacher Mrs L Gwinnett
Head of School Mr J Lewis

Thursday 16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

End of Term Reflection & January Arrangements

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term we would like to give you an update on school life, information about the end of this term, for the new term and some support information for in-between. This is a lengthy letter and it includes lots of information related to Covid-19 testing and reporting arrangements - please take the time to read it all.

Reflecting on the Term

Despite all of the challenges of the term, we have had many successes and many of the traditional, pre-Covid activities have safely returned to school. Some of which have been shared on social media, others which have not. These include:

- A fantastic Open Evening attended by nearly 300 families
- A successful Chromebook roll out to Year 7 and 9
- The restart of the full extra-curricular activities programme, sporting fixtures and preparations for our performance of Cinderella in December
- A Streetwise theatre performance for Year 7
- Prom for the Class of 2021
- One to one careers guidance sessions for all of our Year 11 students
- Year 7 Careers Champions introduced
- Two first class PSHCE days
- Parents' & Tutor Evenings
- Year 11 Revision Technique Evening
- A governor visit day
- High uptake for Covid vaccinations
- A successful Anti-bullying week
- A positive Ofsted visit
- PTFA Christmas Fair which raised over £1,000 for the school
- JJ Effect knife awareness session with Years 8 and 9
- Two Cinderella performances
- Christmas dinner
- Christmas Accessories and Jumper Day
- Cash for Kids donations
- Rewards Assemblies
- Year 11 GCSE Practice Examinations



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Staffing Updates

At the end of this term we will say goodbye to Miss Brook (Data & Exams Manager), Miss Wilson (Pastoral & Behaviour Team Leader) and Ms Fellows (Teacher of English). The end of term also sees Mr Coleman, our ICT Network Manager, leaving us after over 16 years of service to our school. We are sure that you will join us in thanking every member of staff for their hard work and commitment to Wellfield.

Whilst we do have colleagues leaving us for pastures new, we do welcome back Miss Scott (Teacher of English & House Progress Leader) following her maternity leave. Miss Bellemey, who has been the Acting House Progress Leader for Campbell, will hand her house back over to Miss Scott in the new year. We would like to thank Miss Bellemey for the fantastic job she has done in the HPL role.

There are also changes within our PDC team, where Mrs Manley will move into the Team Leader role. Mrs Tuffs, who has done a brilliant job as our Attendance Officer, will become the Deputy Team Leader & Pastoral & Behaviour Manager (PBM), whilst Mrs Salisbury and Miss Hogarth will become house PBMs, rather than year specific. Further information will be shared with students in the new year so they are clear about who to turn to within the PDC team.

End of Term Arrangements

The final day of the term is Friday 17th December. This is a normal day in terms of uniform and appearance. Lunch will be served slightly earlier during an extended break time – students who are eligible to receive a free school meal will still have the opportunity to take this. The day will end at 12.30pm and the buses are booked.

Financial Hardship and/or Family Difficulties

We are very aware that for many families this is a very difficult time, with rising costs of living, heating and food bills and the pressure of Christmas. If you are worrying about this, please let us know so that we can consider any support we can give to you. Likewise, if you have any other concerns going into this Christmas period that we can help with, even if it is just to point you in the direction of where help can be obtained, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your call or email will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

Uniform and Appearance

As we return after the Christmas break, we would like to remind everyone of our expectations related to uniform, the policy link can be found on [School Uniform | Wellfield Academy](#). A key feature of our policy is what we wear (uniform) and how we wear it (appearance). In summary, some key points of note are:

- Knee length skirts
- Knee length socks (Not over the knee) or black tights
- Leather style and sturdy school shoes – trainers and ballet style pumps are not permitted
- Jumpers should be untucked
- A non-smart watch
- Hair colour should be natural



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Covid-19 – Vaccinations for age 12 upwards

The Government, the DfE and our Trust is strongly recommending that all our students are vaccinated. Please reconsider if this has not already happened as we are keen to reduce absence due to Covid-19 and wherever possible and protect the health and wellbeing of all our students, staff and their families. There has been further information in the media about a second vaccination for 12-15-year olds and as yet we have not had any information from the School Health Team.

Covid-19 - Testing over Christmas

As directed by the Department for Education, students (and staff) should continue to test over the Christmas period and into the new year to disrupt the chain of transmission in what may be a time of increased social mixing for some. The government have directed school staff and students to test when:

1. Entering a high-risk setting (high numbers of people or people you do not live with)
2. You are meeting someone who is potentially vulnerable including those with underlying health conditions.

You should continue to report your test results via the NHS website. Until the pre-school test on Tuesday 4th January, there is no obligation to report holiday tests to school.

Confirmed Cases of Covid-19 over the Break

Please remember, you need to tell school if your child has Covid-19 and you should report this to school by emailing enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org. You will receive an automated reply at this will be monitored on the INSET day. This will inform us of who is exempt from the testing programme and who will be absent as the term starts. Please include your official notification from NHS Test and Trace so that we can administer this correctly on the school system with regards to test exemption or isolation related absence.

Testing after Christmas for the Start of the Spring Term

There is an expectation from the DfE, like the start of previous terms, that we will begin the new term with a mass testing programme. We are reluctant to stagger the start of 2022 in order to minimise the time missed from school but we do recognise the need for limited social mixing and testing before lessons and moving around school begins. As such, we would like to complete the mass test in a different way that minimises disruption to families and the student's education but makes sure that community transmission is halted as soon as possible.



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On the **evening of Tuesday 4 January, we expect all of our staff and students to complete a LFT test at home**. This means that asymptomatic cases can be detected before school begins on Wednesday. These results should be reported to school and via the NHS:

NHS: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

School link: [Student Result Reporting Form-Wellfield Academy](#)

On the **morning of Wednesday 5 January, school will start at 8.40am and there will be an extended tutor period session. During this session all students who are eligible will complete a LFT test**, this means that those infections that emerge overnight or for the low number of incomplete tests, we can detect these early.

This test will be completed in the first hour of the day in House groups in either the school hall or in the old gym. Students will be instructed and supervised to administer a test, they will wait for the fifteen minutes required for the test to provide a result. Please note that these tests are a new brand and they take a shorter amount of time to register a result in contrast to some of the home kits we have distributed recently.

If a student's test is negative, we will not contact you – assume it is negative unless you hear otherwise. If the test is positive, we will contact you and ask you if you can come and collect your child. This should be followed up with a PCR test.

If your child has any need that means they need some individual support to complete this test or if this arrangement would cause upset or distress, please let us know at enquiries@wellfieldacademy.org and we will make alternative arrangements their test on site. The intention is to keep everyone safe and maximise time in school.

If the situation and guidance for schools changes dramatically over the Christmas period, please be aware that we may need to stagger the return of students. This may impact upon plans for student return on 5th January.

Face Coverings in January

Over the last few days, staff and students, unless exempt, have worn their face coverings in and around the building. As ever, the support for this has been very pleasing and an indication of the care and compassion that exists in school. Rather than make a hasty decision in January and contact you again, and considering the recent announcements by the government, we will continue to wear face coverings on our return in January. We will review this and contact you on Friday 7 January with an update.

Key worker/vulnerable children

In the (hopefully) unlikely event that we would need to revert to home learning in January, we would still be providing on site provision for our most vulnerable students. If your child has previously been included in this you do not need to do anything. However, if your child has not previously been



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included (this is especially important for our Year 7 students) or they have previously been included but would no longer be needed then please email us so that we can update our records and ensure appropriate provision is in place.

Final Messages

School is closed over the Christmas break and this extends to our colleagues who work for the Endeavour Learning Trust in the central team. If you do contact school over the break, you will receive an automated response and these messages will be reviewed on Tuesday 4th January. The Spring Term starts on Tuesday 4th January and this is a calendared INSET day for staff, students are not expected in school. **School reopens on Wednesday 5th January at 8.40am.** In line with the message from the Department for Education, attendance is compulsory for all students.

We would like to thank you once again for your support, patience and kindness in what has been a testing term for everyone in the whole community and right across our county.

Your kind messages of support for what we have been doing have been very much appreciated. We have tried really hard to make good decisions in the best interest of everyone in school and community – this hasn't always been easy and some people have not agreed with some of the measures in place but the intentions are and continue to be positive for all. A final thank you for the trust that you have put in us during the autumn term.

On behalf of all of the staff here at Wellfield Academy, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break – thank you for your best wishes and messages of goodwill.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for a safe and healthy 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School



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