



18th December 2020

Dear Parents,

Urgent End of Term Update

As you receive this, we hope you, your families and friends are well.

This letter is an update on Covid 19 and arrangements for the start of the spring term, in light of the Department for Education announcements yesterday.

Covid 19 – January Plans

As our term was due to start on Tuesday 5th January, this is to let you know that this date, in line with Government instructions, will now be a full INSET day for staff to enable planning for the changes in provision.

School will therefore be closed for students on Tuesday 5th January.

Year 11 will be expected in school Wednesday 6th January onwards. Classes will be split in our first week back to enable full 2 metre distancing, but the full curriculum will be delivered.

Year 7 – 10 will be working from home on their remote learning until Monday 11th January.

We genuinely appreciate that this will be hugely disappointing, particularly for our Year 8 students who have been at home this week.

We would always prefer to have our students in school, but we appreciate that this action by the Government is to provide some kind of 'circuit break' for the transmission of the virus following the increased social mixing over the Christmas period.

Vulnerable/high needs and critical key worker children in Year 7 – 10 will be given the opportunity to work in school and you will be contacted separately if this applies to you.

Students normally in receipt of free school meals will be issued with Edenred vouchers for the full week.

We await further information about testing in schools and we will send you an update in January once we know more. We will continue to respond positively to any initiatives which are for the benefit of our school community as and when they have been fully thought through and it is safe to do so.

Covid 19 – Confirmed Cases over the break

Please remember, you need to tell school if your child has Covid-19. If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19 within 48 hours of the end of the school term (Sunday 1pm) or tests positive for Covid-19 having shown symptoms within this period, you should report this to school immediately by emailing enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk or calling **07394291147**.

School staff will be on hand to identify all close contacts and families will be contacted by the council so they can self-isolate for ten days.

It's vital you tell us about positive tests so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus in our community.

Our best wishes

Finally, 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 and for all. A final thank you for the trust that you have put in us over the autumn term.

On behalf of all of the staff here at Wellfield High School we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. Take care.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Lewis

Head of School