



15th December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

End of Term Updates

As you receive this, we hope you, your families and friends are well. As we come to the end of this autumn term, we would like to give you an update about staffing, the end of term arrangements and those for the start of the spring term.

Covid-19 Update

Please can we stress to all parents that from Tuesday, any students identified as close contacts of confirmed cases in school would have to self-isolate up to and including Christmas Day. Students should NOT be in school if they, or any of the people they live with have symptoms until tests have been taken and results have come back confirming a negative test.

We are doing everything we can in school to reduce the possibility of transmitting the virus but, as we have said before, we simply cannot guarantee a two-metre distance between students. With this in mind we would like to remind you of the up-to-date guidance we are obliged to follow and to inform you of our plans for this week:

- If we have a confirmed positive case in school this week and your son/daughter is identified as a close contact, then we will get in touch with you to let you know that your child needs to self-isolate. We fully understand that this is likely to impact on your Christmas plans but it is our duty to follow the procedures set out by the government.
- From Saturday onwards, whilst senior leaders will continue to oversee rigorous track and trace procedures, Lancashire County Council's education track and trace team will be contacting families directly should their son/daughter be required to self-isolate.
- If your son/daughter attends school on Thursday and Friday of this week and is identified by senior leaders in the school holidays as a close contact of a confirmed positive case, you may be contacted directly by the Lancashire County Council team as late as Christmas Eve. This could be by email, letter or a phone call. It goes without saying that we ask you to be respectful and polite with the member of council staff who may need to make the unfortunate phone call.
- The above scenario applies to any student testing positive for Covid-19 who initially showed symptoms on Saturday 19th December or before 12.30pm on Sunday 20th December. In this instance, can we ask parents to contact the school directly with all information using enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk and by calling **07394 291 147**.
- If your son/daughter displays symptoms of Covid-19 after 12.30pm on Sunday 20th December, it is important that you follow Public Health England guidelines. Your child should then remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared as advised in www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance You should arrange for testing for your child via www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested or 111.nhs.uk or primary care. All subsequent track and trace procedures will be undertaken by Public Health England. In this instance you will not be required to contact the school.

Wellfield High School

Yewlands Drive, Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 2TP
Telephone: 01772 421303 Term time e-mail: enquiries@whs.lancs.sch.uk
www.whs.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs L A Gwinnett, Executive Head
Mr J Lewis, Head of School



End of Term Arrangements

For today and tomorrow, students will follow the curriculum according to their current timetable. On Thursday, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 can attend school in their Christmas jumper/accessories as well as enjoying a festive lunch should they wish to order one. The lunch was thoroughly enjoyed last week by Year 7 and 8. Students in all years will be taught within tutor groups throughout the day within a static classroom to reduce the amount of potential close contacts. Students in Year 7 will complete work on their chromebooks that will be set by subject teaching staff while 9 will access their work within three computer rooms. Students in Years 10 and 11 will have a core subject (English, Maths and Science) lesson delivered by a subject specialist whilst work will be provided by options subjects for students to complete during the other two timetabled lessons.

On Friday 18th, the last day of term, students will be in their tutor group with their Personal Tutor and the activities will have a festive theme, along with some rewards assemblies. We are due to finish at 12.30pm on and the school minibus has been reorganised for this time. Lunches for students eligible for a free school meal will be available at 12.30pm as a grab bag.

Uniform

We have been contacted by a number of parents who have been trying to source new uniform from Delta Wool, who have informed them that products are unavailable. We are working on a resolution to this issue and will inform you of any updates as soon as we have it resolved.

Staffing Updates

We are pleased to let you know that Mrs Livesley will join us in role of Assistant Headteacher for Progress and Intervention from another of our Trust schools. She will initially be working closely with Miss O'Neill who is starting to prepare for her maternity leave to begin. In addition to Mrs Livesley's appointment, we will also welcome Mr Fazal to the school in the role of Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning. We are sure both colleagues will be fantastic additions to the school and will add more strength to our Senior Leadership Team.

Parents Evenings

Following another extremely successful Year 10 virtual Parents' Evening which took place last week, we are pleased to confirm the dates for both Year 8 and 9:

- **Thursday 14th January:** Year 9
- **Thursday 4th February:** Year 8

Spring Term Updates

After the Christmas break, school will reopen on Tuesday 5th January at 8.40am for all students as Monday 4th January is an INSET training day for the staff. We are hoping to move away from the rota system in place this half term but, as always, this is going to be subject to review based on staff absences and whether we are able to fully staff the school. A reminder that school starts at 8.45am

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and that students are expected on the school site for the first bell at 8.40am and there are sanctions in place for students who arrive late for school.

The existing protocols for entry onto site will be in place and students should be prepared in their full school uniform, with all of their equipment in a bag and with a suitable face covering. However, there is one change for you to be made aware of with regards to the bubbles. As Year 11 approach their practice exams in January, we want to limit their potential close contacts to ensure absence is limited as much as possible. Therefore, our Year 7 will move to form a bubble with Year 10, meaning their dining areas, toilets and lining up areas will change and we will ensure they are made fully aware of these changes before they leave on Friday. Year 11 will take the place of the current Year 7 bubble.

Thank You

Finally, we would like to thank you 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 both humbling and invigorating in equal measure. We have tried really hard to make good decisions in the best interest of everyone in school – 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, we would like to wish you a safe and well rested break. Take care.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Dunne
Executive Secondary Lead

Mr J Lewis
Head of School