

**This week's update includes: Long weekend; reminders about snow; Year 11 mocks; COVID measures and Omicron; Army Day in PE; Attendance 12 days of Xmas**

December of course means that final run up to Christmas. We hope you **enjoy your long weekend ahead - we are not in tomorrow** - and there are now two more weeks until we break up on Friday 17th December.

We started with a very **snowy Monday** in school. Whilst many children love it, it's always a challenge for us in school as some of our young people like to throw snowballs at each other! The safest way we can manage this is to designate specific external areas where children can do this. This then minimises the risk of anyone who wants to steer well clear being able to do so. As parents, if you'd rather not run the risk of your child being hit by a snowball, please remind them to remain indoors or in non-throwing areas of school external grounds.

Year 11s have now finished their **mock examinations** and will receive their results in January.

We are delighted to bring you exciting event in the forthcoming weeks!

**Monday, 13 December - Winter Wonderland Dance Showcase**, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, 15 December - Christmas Concert**, including the Musicians of Werneth, Silver Lining and a new-take on an old classic: Papa Panov

*These are COVID dependent of course, and will involve enhanced COVID arrangements ( masks, hand gel etc ). Tickets will be available to purchase from our Performing Arts team.*

It's been a challenging week again with the return of **COVID measures** for schools. The latest guidance from the government asks young people to wear their **face coverings in communal areas**. They should also do so on public transport, including school buses. Some of them are doing so, and many are not. I would ask you please to reinforce with your children the importance of wearing a mask when walking around school: the guidance does not require them in classrooms currently. We have plenty of face coverings in school if pupils request them.

Here are the key points from this week's new guidance to schools:

- Bubbles do not need to be reintroduced.
- Assemblies can still go ahead
- There is no requirement to avoid mixing at lunch/break time
- Bubbles may be reintroduced on a temporary measure in the event of outbreak management. This decision would not be taken lightly.
- Education settings are not expected to contact trace
- If an individual is identified as a close contact of a suspected/confirmed case of Omicron variant, they will be asked to self isolate and book a PCR test. This will come directly from NHS Test and Trace.
- For everyone else, individuals are not required to self isolate because they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 that is not an Omicron case.

- All pupils, staff and visitors are recommended to wear face coverings when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, corridors and communal areas. This is a temporary measure.
- Pupils should wear a face covering on public transport including school buses
- Face coverings do not need to be worn outdoors
- Transparent face coverings are allowed. A face visor should not be worn INSTEAD OF a face covering - only in addition to one.
- There are circumstances where people are not able to wear face coverings
- Everyone should test themselves at home twice weekly with Lateral Flow kits. These are available in school.
- School attendance remains compulsory
- Educational visits and experiences will be risk-assessed on an individual basis by the headteacher and other leaders.

These are likely to be reviewed according to further COVID developments locally and nationally. We have also been informed by the Department for Education that we are required to **complete lateral flow tests in school when we return after Christmas**. I don't yet know any details about how this will work, but we will provide those next week hopefully.



The **Army attended school** on Friday 26th November and students took part in activities as part of their P.E lessons. The activities were based around teamwork and problem solving skills. The students who took part were from years 9,10 & 11, and had a great day developing their skills alongside working with their peers. The Army fed back on how excellently the students from Werneth took on all the challenges and activities

and embraced the experience.

The **Attendance Team** are pleased to announce the launch of the **12 Days of Christmas Challenge**. See the box below.

Any Covid related absences will not affect their attendance for this challenge. Your support in achieving this will be really appreciated!



**Have a good weekend!**



**Attendance  
Christmas Challenge  
2021**



**The TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

**All students with 100% attendance over the 12 days of CHRISTMAS will receive a gift from SANTA!**

*Are you ready for the Challenge?!*

**Merry Christmas**

