



# Clacton County High School

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Higher Expectations, Raising Aspirations

Our reference: CTALET27

17<sup>TH</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

At the end of the first term, I always like to write to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas. September seems an age ago when our new Year 7 cohort joined the CCHS community, but they are already now a term into secondary school life. I have been very proud of all of our students, who are living through a global pandemic, but have demonstrated resilience and determination everyday by turning up to school, making the most of every lesson and supporting each another. The vast majority have shown respect and understanding by following the Covid-19 safety procedures on face coverings, hand-washing/sanitising, social distancing, self-isolation and demonstrated incredible empathy and compassion for others.

I must also publicly thank all the staff for rising to the challenges that the ever-changing COVID guidance has presented, yet they have all maintained their sense of humour and developed their own teaching in the “new normal” to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students

As this term comes to a close, I wanted to remind you about arrangements for tomorrow and the start of next term (although there could be a certain amount of fluidity about the arrangements for the start of term). I also need to clarify the expectations around reporting cases of COVID-19 and undertaking contact tracing over the Christmas holiday period.

## **Last day of term – Friday, 18th December 2020**

The last day of term ends after Period 2 at 11:40am (years 8, 9 and 11) and 11:55am (years 7 and 10). Any students wishing to ‘grab’ any food before they leave site can do so from Clouds (this includes any Free School Meals students).

Friday, 18th December will also be a non-uniform day and we always encourage festive clothing and Christmas jumpers to be worn. We ask students to donate £1 (either in advance on ParentPay or in cash on the day), monies raised for non-uniform will support the charity Porridge and Pens, as well as the Clacton Rotary Club.

## **Week beginning Monday 4th January 2021**

Today’s sudden announcement by the government regarding a staggered return to school in January has led to some emergency planning on our part. All I can say this evening is that on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January, only years 11, 12 and 13 will be on site for face to face learning. Other years will be given work to complete online. I will update you tomorrow for the plan for the rest of the first week.

In all cases, please ensure that your child starts the new term fully equipped with a complete pencil case, calculator, glue stick etc. as well as a bag big enough to carry their A4 size books. Coats and winter jackets may be worn outside but must be over the top of a blazer so that when they come into the building this can be easily removed. All students may wear a dark coloured base layer under their uniform for extra warmth as we are trying to keep additional air-flow in the corridors and classrooms to reduce the spread of the virus.

### **Reporting Covid-19 Cases over the Christmas break**

As you know, schools have played a vital role in reducing the spread of COVID-19 over the last 9 months. One way in which they have done this is by undertaking contact tracing on behalf of the Essex Contact Tracing Team. Track and trace arrangements within school applies up to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, however, please let us know of any if there are any issues that will impact on your child's ability to resume learning on 4<sup>th</sup> January due to Covid-19 self-isolation.

Please read carefully the following information, aimed at keeping us all safe and reducing the spread of the virus:

#### **If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of being in school.**

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let the school know that this has occurred. The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19 you must inform the school by email on [covid@cchs.school](mailto:covid@cchs.school), who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this. Self-isolation and household isolation must then continue for 10 days following the day when symptoms occurred.

If the test result is negative, you do not need to take any further action.

Please provide the following information when reporting to school: name of student, form group, symptoms and date of symptoms starting (unless asymptomatic), date test taken, date test results received, date last in school, mode of transport to school, name of person reporting the information and contact number. A screen shot of the result should also be emailed directly to school.

#### **If your child has no symptoms of COVID-19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school.**

It is important to follow the guidance around accessing a test only when the individual is showing signs of COVID-19. However, if your child is asymptomatic and returns a positive test result within 48 hours of last being in school, please let the school know straight away. You should contact the school as detailed above.

#### **If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school.**

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school i.e. Monday 21st December onwards, you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/)

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days following the positive contact. Further information can be found: at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

I would encourage you to adhere to social distancing and all COVID-19 social mixing guidance during the Christmas break.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support to keep us all safe and well. It has been a testing time for families and the contribution of parents and carers to ensure that the school can continue to operate smoothly during a pandemic is much appreciated. I will finish with a comment from Dr Sarah Gilbert, Professor of Vaccinology at Oxford University and the designer of the Oxford vaccine, when she was asked about what it takes to keep going, working against time, both evenings and weekends, in the race to find a solution to the pandemic. Dr Gilbert responded by saying that the following quote, from the American educator Marva Collins, had kept her motivated throughout the last year: "Determination and perseverance move the world; thinking that other people will do it for you is a sure way to fail."

Let's hope 2021 brings some much needed positive news for us all and we can celebrate the successes of our students together.

Christmas wishes and stay safe,

Yours sincerely

Chris Taylor

Head of School