



Our reference: SMCLET3/LH

Monday, 18th December 2023

Dear Parent and Carers

Re: Season's Greetings

We are almost at the end of the first full term of the academic year 2023/24. We have made a great start and are looking forward to our return in January and the start of the spring term. Our sixth form students worked hard during their recent mock week, with a positive attitude and a good work ethic. The outcomes of their recent mocks examinations continue to be shared with students and these will feed into their reports.

Some year 12 and 13 students will be sitting BTEC and Functional Skills exams early next term. These students have received a personalised statement of entry which details all the written exams they have been entered for. It includes the venue, seat location, start time and exam duration. In the same letter students have also been provided with information about exam board guidelines. The contents of this letter should be carefully checked and students should familiarise themselves with their exam schedule.

I have written previously on the importance of full attendance at college. Any time missed with their teacher cannot be repeated and is lost learning time. 90% attendance means students are missing two months of education and have less than a 2% chance of achieving their target grade. Lower than 90% places a student on track to fail their courses completely. Again, I ask that you reinforce the importance of attendance and punctuality. Your child needs to be on time and needs to attend all their subject lessons.

With excellent attendance and a full commitment to their studies, we are confident that we are giving our sixth form students the opportunity to maximise on their potential. The sixth form team and their teachers are looking forward to supporting them to build on their current successes, recognise and work on their areas for development and thrive in the high-support, high-challenge environment.

Much is planned for the last few days of term; our Christmas trees and decorations are up and we have a number of festive activities such as our college Christmas dinner, live performances and Christmas quiz (arranged by the student council). Our students have also been involved in a number of community and charity events; they have been collecting food donations for Community Voluntary Service Tendring and a local food bank, and preparing hampers for the Holly Court Appeal. We are extremely proud of their efforts and community spirit.

Sigma Sixth will close its doors for the Christmas holidays after the morning session at 12.10am on Friday 22nd December. The bus service will operate at its normal time so students may want to arrange alternative transportation.

Finally, the Sixth Form team and I would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming students back to college on Monday 8th January 2024.

Kind Regards

Mrs S McKarry
Head of College

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