



THE DEANERY

Church of England High School and Sixth Form College

12th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We now approach the end of what has been a very long school term as we prepare for the Christmas break. It doesn't seem five minutes since we were returning in September after the summer holidays, does it?

End of term

Pupils will be dismissed around lunchtime on Friday 16th December. As you will be aware, we hold our Christmas services on the last day. The arrangements by year group are as follows:

- Year 7 will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm
- Year 8 will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm
- Year 9 will be dismissed from St Michael's Church between 12.15 - 12.30pm
- Year 10 will be dismissed from St Andrew's Church between 12.15 - 12.30pm
- Year 11 will be dismissed from school at 12.20pm
- Sixth Form will be dismissed from college at 12.10pm

If your child is in Y9 or Y10 and you would prefer to collect them from school, a member of staff will accompany them back to school after the church service where they will be available to collect from around 12.55pm. Please let Mrs Storey (Y9) or Ms Stockley (Y10) know if you would like to make these arrangements.

Start of term

Term starts for all pupils on Wednesday 4th January at the normal time.

Attendance at school

Attendance at school remains mandatory by law. Full attendance, every day, at school is vitally important, especially so with the amount of time pupils missed due to Covid. It remains parents' duty legally to ensure that their child attends school. Schools and local authorities have the power to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, where parents do not ensure their child's attendance at school. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact the relevant pastoral team at school and they will support you.

Wellbeing section of school website

Our school website includes sections on wellbeing and online safety. This includes advice and guidance for both parents and young people:

<http://www.deanery.wigan.sch.uk/wellbeing>

Parental Drop-ins

Next term I will continue to host a parental drop-in on a Thursday morning between 10.30am and 11.30am. If there is something you would like to discuss with me directly in person, please do come in – there is no need to book, although there may be a wait if several parents arrive at a similar time. If I am unavailable, one of my Deputies may take my place.

Email addresses

Please ensure that school has your up to date email address. If you have changed your email address, please let the school office know by emailing sdalzellm@deanery.wigan.sch.uk

Staffing changes

At the end of term, we will be saying goodbye and best wishes to the following members of staff:

- Miss Hart, School Librarian
- Mrs Muflahi, Curriculum Leader for RE.
- Miss Whittaker, Learning Support Assistant

In addition, one of our Deputy Headteachers, Ms Parker, will be undertaking a secondment to another church school from January to September 2023.

We will be welcoming Miss Milligan as our new School Receptionist and Miss Thomas as a Cover Teacher.

Scarlet Fever and iGAS

You will have heard updates on the news regarding an increase in cases of Group A Strep (GAS) and Scarlet Fever. Whilst this is concerning, I would like to reassure you that we have taken advice from the Department of Education about infection control and outbreak management, should we have any confirmed cases.

Group A Strep (GAS) is a common bacteria which causes a range of infections, including scarlet fever. These infections are usually mild. Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS) is very rare, but can cause a more serious infection which occurs when the GAS bacteria gets into parts of the body where it can cause serious disease, like the lungs or bloodstream.

The symptoms of scarlet fever include a sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. This is followed by a fine red rash which typically first appears on the chest and stomach, rapidly spreading to other parts of the body. On more darkly-pigmented skin, the scarlet rash may be harder to spot, but it should feel like 'sandpaper.' The face can be flushed red but pale around the mouth.

If you think your child has scarlet fever:

- See your GP or contact NHS 111 as soon as possible
- Ask your GP to take a throat swab to confirm if it is scarlet fever
- Make sure that your child takes the full course of any antibiotics prescribed by the doctor
- Stay at home and away from school for at least 24 hours after starting the antibiotic treatment, to avoid spreading the infection

If your child has an underlying health condition which affects the immune system, you should contact your GP or hospital doctor to discuss whether any additional measures are needed.

Children who have had chickenpox recently are more likely to develop the more serious infection during an outbreak of scarlet fever, so you should remain vigilant for symptoms such as persistent high fever, cellulitis (skin infection) and arthritis (joint pain and swelling.) If you are concerned for any reason, please seek medical assistance immediately. All children with chickenpox should remain off school until at least 5 days after the start of their rash AND until all spots have crusted over.

Further information is available at:

- NHS Choices <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>
- UKHSA Scarlet Fever – frequently asked questions <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scarlet-fever-symptoms-diagnosis-treatment>

Please inform school if your child has suspected Group A Strep (GAS) or scarlet fever.

I wish you and your family a peaceful and blessed Christmas. I look forward to working with you again next year as we help your child to flourish at The Deanery.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Wood
Headteacher