



7 December 2020

End of Term 2 Update – Festival of Friendship

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for continuing to work with school in such a positive and supportive manner. This continues to be a very challenging time for us all. As we all know, Covid-19 positive cases in the community have been relatively high, with the government deciding to place Derbyshire in Tier 3.

In school we have had to manage individual confirmed Covid-19 cases in year group bubbles, but thankfully no outbreaks. We will continue to take all necessary steps to keep our students, staff and members of the community as safe as possible whilst in school. Our safety control measures in school would seem to be working well.

We understand that students that are asked to isolate from school are missing face to face teaching from their teachers, the pastoral support of colleagues and their friends and the routines of school life. We listen carefully to the advice of the government and moving forwards will continue to adapt our student isolation requirements in line with the government's 'close contact' guidance, whilst not compromising the safety of our children, staff and their families.

I am very grateful to parents, carers and the staff who continue to work fantastically well together when remote learning at home is required. Many more lessons are now 'live' or 'recorded' and a virtual tutor group is available for students in the mornings offered through Microsoft Teams. Your support in encouraging your children to complete their work at home when required is greatly appreciated. Work will always be set and we are working hard to consider how staff can regularly feedback on work completed at home.

The availability of a Covid-19 vaccine is tremendously uplifting news for the country, however we are not there yet. We have a few more difficult months ahead but together we will see this through. The government has issued the following guidance should there be a dramatic increase in local Covid-19 cases leading to a requirement for the school to partially close. This would be a last resort:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings>

If the government decide to partially close our school, we will remain open for the following pupils:

- All pupils in Year 11
- Pupils with Education, Health Care plans and it has been determined, following risk assessment, that their needs can be as safely or more safely met at school
- Pupils who are children of critical workers
- Pupils who are considered to be vulnerable

Should we be faced with this situation we will confirm with you definitions of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable pupils' and therefore which students should be in school.



Festival of Friendship

Since March 2020 our students and families have had to deal with many changes to school routine and experiences. For many they have adapted without too much concern, however there are some who have found the whole Covid-19 crisis very unsettling. We will continue to reach out to all of our students and support them. We recognise that the festive season will not be 'normal' and in fact for some will be a period of uncertainty and anxiety. In light of this, the final week of term will be a 'Festival of Friendship' where a number of events and activities will be on offer for our students. The week will include:

- A number of festive competitions
- A student contribution to the central courtyard decoration around the 'Tupton Tree'.
- An online pantomime
- 'Wear a Woolley' Children's Charity Fundraising day – Monday 14 December 2020 £1.00 donation
- A Virtual Christmas Concert for Year 7 and 8 students
- Clay Cross Food Bank donations handover
- 'Acts of Kindness' activities
- Tutor group celebration activities

Friday 18 December 2020 will be a non-uniform day in recognition of our students' good work, attitudes and good will towards one another since September 2020.

Communication

There has rarely been a time when we have had to communicate with you so frequently about so many important issues. Routinely we send parents, carers and students emails and keep the school website updated. However, ***we continue to strive to make Class Charts our main communication tool.*** This platform not only supports good communication, but also gives parents and carers access to student achievements, behaviours and homework. We will continue to email, but urge you to ensure you have logged on and setup **Class Charts**. If you need any help with this, please email Mr Melton n.melton@tuptonhall.org.uk to have details of your individual login re-sent or questions answered.

Finally, if you need to contact school outside of normal school hours to report a Covid 19 related issue please email: covidnotification@tuptonhall.org.uk

Students return to school on Monday 4 January 2020.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable festive break and thank you again for all your support.

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher