



10 December 2020

Notification of change to end of term closure of school – now Thursday 17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my letter dated 7 December 2020, which will have arrived this week to families and homes.

During the afternoon of 8 December, there was a very late message from the Department for Education to schools advising them to consider closing schools to students on Thursday 17 December 2020 and to use this day as a remote in-service training day for staff.

The thinking behind this earlier closure is to protect further extended family bubbles over Christmas from Covid-19 infection and transmission. In addition, the DfE suggest that this will help to minimise the burden of track and trace falling on schools over the Christmas break.

The Redhill Academy Trust has confirmed today that all of its 15 schools will be following the DfE guidance and will now be closing to students on Thursday 17 December 2020. The inset day planned for 21 June 2021 will revert to a normal school day for students and staff in light of the 18 December 2020 becoming an inset day.

Our planned non-uniform day for students will therefore move to Thursday 17 December 2020 with all other Festival of Friendship activities continuing as planned for our students.

We continue to respond to the government's lead, whilst at times being very frustrated by the late notification of their guidance. However, I hope you can appreciate that this decision is in the interests of keeping all as safe as possible over the Christmas break.

Sincere best wishes,

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher