

PSH/LAS/End of term Dec 2020

14<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing to inform you that the school will be closed on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> December and therefore **the last day of school will be Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. The context of this needs to be explained as it's not as the media may be portraying, that teachers just want to finish early for Christmas. Indeed you need to be aware that staff have been working above and beyond to try and support our students; from developing extra resources and developing on line learning during closures, to ensuring students catch up on lost learning from the first lockdown in March.

The school has maintained support for students since the 23 March 2020 right through the summer. I am aware that we have had to close to year groups due to Public Health guidelines regarding Covid-19 cases and that this has caused pressures on parents and guardians when the school has had to close. I would like to thank you all for your support during these times and for the many supportive comments received to date, that shows that parents are confident in the environment we have for students within our care and that we will always take decisions to keep children and staff safe. Please be assured my priority is to keep the school open where possible.

The focus of what the DfE are allowing to happen is to allow staff to actually not be on call on Christmas Eve. You may be unaware that the school is obliged to run track and trace on any confirmed Covid-19 case and it takes some staff a great deal of time and effort to get notifications out.

The INSET training day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 will also be moved to Monday 22 February 2021, this will give students an unbroken run after Christmas and therefore school will be open to all students as normal on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.

I am proud of what our staff have achieved this year and of the students who have had to put up with a very different life within school. Our students may be working in bubbles, but as a school we have ensured that each student has received a full curriculum as well as being supported pastorally. We have delivered food to over 467 families who are eligible for free school meals, this has been achieved by our staff volunteering to deliver across our community. Our whole school and wider community has pulled together to support each other in all aspects of life and that has been heartening to see in times that for some have been very difficult indeed.

School will be fully open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 with normal school times for the day. We will continue to require Years 7, 8 and 9 to use the main front entrance, with Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 using the Forster street entrance as this term.

Holly Lodge is always here for its community and if we can help in any way please contact us in the usual way.

I wish you a safe and happy Christmas

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Shone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a smaller 'S'.

**Mr Paul Shone**  
**Headteacher**