



12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## End of Term Letter

Dear parent or carer,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the Christmas break. I wanted to write to you before the end of the year to highlight some of the great work that has been undertaken in school this term, as well as some forthcoming developments and important information.

### Celebration

The first term of the school year is always a very busy one. However, there is always lots to celebrate, and the end of the term provides a good opportunity to reflect on, and recognise, all of the achievements and hard work.

The annual pupil awards evening at the Lichfield Guildhall was even bigger and better than last year. It was great to celebrate the wide-ranging academic and personal successes with parents and carers. At the end of each term, we also hold our awards assemblies in school, and we will be undertaking additional work with pupils early next term to further develop our rewards system. This is a really important focus for us in enhancing the culture of the school. We know that the vast majority of our pupils come to school each day and not only meet, but surpass, our expectations. We want to ensure they are recognised and rewarded for representing the school so well.

As always, there have been a number of sporting successes in both netball and football, with great wins for the Year 7 and Year 9 netball teams and for the girls' football team against Friary. We have also been proud to continue our excellent partnership work with local primary schools, involving pupils coming to Nether Stowe as well as our staff going to work with pupils in their schools.

There have also been a number of great events in school, including, recently, the well-attended winter talent showcase as well as the World Challenge fundraiser. It is also important to recognise the efforts of staff and pupils who supported with the Lichfield Santa Sleigh to help raise funds to support the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Year 13 have also been thoroughly challenged by a series of rigorous mock interviews using our growing number of partners in local and regional business. Similarly, it was great to hear of the amazing experiences of the pupils who took part in the Year 7 residential earlier in the term. We are continuing to develop our extra-curricular provision and, as we go into next year, we specifically want to increase the offer for trips and visits out of school to build the cultural, personal and wider experiences of our pupils. You will have already received the information regarding the planned ski trip. The range of activities available in-school is on the website, [click here for details](#). We are also really proud of our involvement with the Children's University providing great personal development opportunities for our pupils in school and recognition of their involvement in activities and events outside school. Further information on the Children's University is available on the website, [by clicking here](#).



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## Staff Leaving

The end of term is often a time to say goodbye to much-valued members of staff and I am sure you would want to join me in warmly thanking them for their brilliant, lasting, contribution to the school and wish them the very best for the future. At the end of this term, we say farewell and pass our best wishes to:

Miss Whalley – Teacher of Maths  
Miss Poar – Assistant Headteacher and Head of English  
Miss Bradbury – Teaching Assistant

## Learning Futures Digital Strategy

As you may be aware, we will soon be starting the distribution of iPads for students with a specific focus, initially, on our Year 13, 12 and 11 students to help them to revise and prepare for their exams in January.

Mr Peace is leading parental information sessions, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 5:00pm to 5:30pm. A letter has been provided with information on how to access these sessions and there will also be an opportunity to ask any questions not covered in the FAQ.

The learning futures digital strategy will be a significant developmental stage for the school, and we are excited about what this offers to our pupils and the support it will also provide for parents. We are proud to have more Apple trained teachers than any other school in the partnership and our aim is to be at the vanguard of what digital technology can provide for the learning and development of our pupils.

## Attendance

I know you will be aware of our ongoing - and very important - focus on attendance. I know you also understand the really important link for your child between attendance, good progress and success in school.

To put it simply, pupils with more than 90% attendance achieve, on average, a grade higher, than a similar student with less than 90% attendance.

That can mean the difference in securing a place in Sixth Form, College or an apprenticeship - or not. This was also evident in our own results last year. Pupils with more than 94% attendance performed considerably better than those with attendance at 90% or below.

Every day and every lesson counts, from Year 7 to Year 13.

Our policy was updated earlier this year to ensure that any patterns of absence are identified at the earliest possible stage and the appropriate support or interventions implemented.



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However, as always, we need your positive support to minimise lost learning. Please continue to actively support us and your child and ensure their good attendance at school.

## Uniform

Full details of our uniform expectations are available via the website: [click here for details](#). If you are in any doubt about the suitability of an item of uniform, please contact your child's form tutor or a pastoral member of staff.

Please also contact us if you need any financial support sourcing appropriate uniform for your child: we would be happy to discuss what assistance we can provide.

## Safeguarding: Accessing support over the holiday.

We recognise that the Christmas holiday is not always a positive time of year for children or families. The current financial climate, poor mental health or reminders of family members who are sadly no longer around, can all contribute to negative feelings.

Whilst school is closed, there is plenty of support available for your child or you, throughout the holiday period. If you have concerns about your child, encourage them to contact one of the organisations below or contact on their behalf:

Samaritans (24/7): 116 123

Childline (24/7): 0800 1111

YoungMinds - Shout (24/7 text messaging) Text YM to 85258

NHS urgent mental health service (24/7): 0808 196 3002 The Mix – support for under 25s: 0808 808 4994

Refuge (domestic abuse helpline – 24/7): 0808 2000 247

Papyrus suicide prevention (9am – midnight) 0800 068 4141

NSPCC (Mon – Fri 8am – 10pm; weekends 9am – 6pm): 0808 800 5000

Sandbox (weekdays 10am – 6pm): 07360 539736



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If you have concerns that your child (or any family member) is in danger or at risk of significant harm, call the police on 999 immediately.

## **Arrangements for the last day of term**

The last day of term will be a full day. Pupils will be dismissed, as normal, at 3:00pm

## **Start of Term**

Term starts for all pupils at the usual time on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Please remember that the school gate closes, promptly at 08:45 and pupils are marked late after that point.

Finally, I sincerely wish you a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr G Langston-Jones**  
**Headteacher**