



Nether Stowe School

Headteacher: Mr G Langston-Jones
St Chad's Road
Lichfield, Staffordshire
WS13 7NB
Tel: 01543 263446 & 263487

10th December 2021

End of Term Letter

Dear parent or carer,

I hope you are well and looking forward to the festive season. I wanted to take the opportunity, before the end of term, to share some important information with you.

There has been a lot to celebrate over what has been a long term and we are looking forward to sharing our triumphs and successes in the end of term College assemblies on the final day of term. We have also been pleased to welcome a number of our partner primary schools this week to enjoy a range of brilliant activities, as well as our staff going out to local primaries to lead some amazing events.

We are very proud to support our local community. Our Duke of Edinburgh staff leaders and Sixth Form students recently braved the cold to support the Lichfield Round Table Santa Sleigh, and earlier this term, pupils showed their solidarity by wearing yellow for mental health on 'Hello Yellow' day. We have also had an awe-inspiring response to our foodbank appeal. Thank you for your support, generosity and ongoing community spirit.

It's been brilliant that sporting fixtures have re-started, and the Year 7 boys football team deserve special recognition for their outstanding national cup-run. In collaboration with the army, we have jointly run really engaging, problem-solving STEM activities in school, with more activities planned before the end of term. Earlier this term, we were really proud to hold our formal awards evening at the Lichfield Guildhall, and Year 7 enjoyed an adventurous time at Whitemoor Lakes. You can always see selected pictures on our social media feeds.

As we head into the Spring Term, we look forward to continuing our excellent provision and engaging activities for our students.

Arrangements for the end of term

The last day of term is Friday 17th December. Pupils will be dismissed from 12:15pm

Arrangements for the start of term, January 2022 and Covid Testing

As you will hopefully be aware, schools are required to provide the opportunity for pupils to be tested on their return to school. We will only test pupils where consent has been provided. A letter was sent out earlier this month regarding this and outlining how consent could be amended or provided.

For those pupils undertaking the test, they are required to await the outcome of the test before the pupil returns to the classroom.

To accommodate the number of pupils who have confirmed consent, and taking into consideration the capacity for testing, we will need to stagger the return of pupils in January. The full schedule for the return of pupils is provided below:

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THE SUTTON PARK
TEACHING SCHOOL ALLIANCE



Arrival Time	Wednesday 5 th Jan
08:30	Year 12 and Year 13
10:00	Year 11 BEACON and CHASE
10:45	Year 11 TRENT and WALL
11:30	Year 10 BEACON and CHASE
12:15	Year 10 TRENT and WALL

Arrival Time	Thursday 6 th Jan
08:30	Year 7 BEACON and CHASE
09:15	Year 7 TRENT and WALL
10:20	Year 8 BEACON and CHASE
10:45	Year 8 TRENT and WALL
11:30	Year 9 BEACON and CHASE
12:50	Year 9 TRENT and WALL

Pupils should enter the school, as normal, through the main pupil entrance. Those undertaking the test will be directed to the Gym. Any pupil without consent will be directed to their normal timetabled lesson.

Pupils' first arrival to school should only be at the allocated time and on the specified day. For the safety of pupils, the external gates will remain locked until supervised and opened by a member of staff at the time indicated on the schedule. Sixth Form lessons will commence P2 on Wednesday 5th January.

Once the test has been completed, pupils will be required to remain in the gym to await the outcome. Pupils with negative results will then be directed to their normal lesson.

In the case of any positive tests, parents or carers will be contacted at the earliest opportunity and arrangements made for the pupil to return home and self-isolate in line with the current guidance.

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Please remember that pupils are strongly encouraged to asymptomatically test twice a week using a lateral flow test.

Pupils displaying symptoms should seek a PCR test at the earliest opportunity and, if symptomatic, should not attend school until a negative PCR test result is received.

Late to Lesson

We are continually looking at ways to further raise standards and expectations. Every improvement we make is designed to maximise learning and progress. We want the start of lessons to be as efficient and effective as possible. Any lost learning is a missed opportunity.

We provide five minutes at the start of each lesson as transition time. After five minutes has elapsed, a pupil is considered late to lesson unless they have a note from a member of staff. Accordingly, we are updating our behaviour policy to reflect the following:

- If a pupil is late to lesson once in a week, they will have a ten-minute detention at the end of the same day. Parents will not be notified of this separately, but it will be visible via the My Child at School (MCAS) app.
- If a pupil is late to lesson more than once in a week, the pupil will have a 60min after-school detention. Parents or carers will be notified of these detentions.

The changes in policy will come into effect from **Monday 10th January**.

Uniform

We have really high standards for uniform. In January will be having a concerted focus on making sure our standards are met. Full details of our uniform expectations are available via the website: [click here for details](#). Please review them carefully before the start of term.

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.

Attendance

You will be aware of the clear link between good attendance at school and good academic and personal progress. Our policy was updated at the start of this year to ensure that any patterns of absence are identified at the earliest possible stage and the appropriate support or interventions implemented.

We will be introducing further rewards and incentives for good attendance this term. However, as always, we need your support to minimise lost learning – every day and every lesson counts. Please continue to proactively support us and ensure your child's good attendance at school.

Emergency Closures

We have been fortunate enough not to have had significant snowfall this term. In cases of severe weather, always assume the school is open. Whist our priority will always be to remain open, if and when a decision to close the school is made:

- The homepage of the school website will be updated with a clear message.
- A message will be distributed to all parents via My Child at School (MCAS)

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In the instance of any closure, work will be made available for students via Stella – [click here for the link](#). For each scheduled lesson on that day, teachers will be available to provide live support and guidance, via MS Teams, answering any questions pupils may have about the work. Teachers will be available 15mins into the lesson for a 20min consultation, guidance and question time.

Extra-Curricular

We have had an excellent response to our significantly extended extra-curricular offer. As a reminder, [the full menu of activities is available here](#) and events run every Wednesday from 3-4pm. The menu will be updated for the start of the Spring Term.

Please encourage your child to participate. If there is an activity your child would like to take-part in, but it isn't on the menu at present, please encourage them to speak to their form tutor and we'll see how we can expand our offer even more.

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock and External Exams

The start of term in January is an important time for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils as they undertake mock and external exams.

The assessment information generated by the assessments will be crucial in pupils' preparation for the summer series of examinations. I applaud the many pupils have already taken their revision very seriously, and I encourage you to ensure that regular time is set aside over the Christmas break to aid revision and preparation.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mr G Langston-Jones
Headteacher

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