

Message from Mr Maltby

3rd December 2021



Good afternoon,

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I want to provide an update on our preparations for the end of term alongside the start of the new term.

As a leader of a community school, I am very mindful of how decision-making at our school can impact on our wider community; and this seems particularly relevant at this time of the year.

As the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases continues to increase in our local community (Babergh is now higher than the national average), the Academy continues to comply with local public health guidance alongside monitoring our own further control measures. Today, we have had confirmation from the Covid Support Team at Suffolk County Council that there is no longer the need for students who are in 7 Deben, 7 Orwell and 7 Stour to wear face masks in lessons as the number of confirmed cases in these teaching groups has now steadied and declined. A separate communication has been sent to these families.

Furthermore, I have now taken the decision to minimise the number of interactions between students in different year groups in the lead up to the Christmas holiday; and this has meant an adaptation to our Enrichment and extra-curricular programme. I do want to be explicit here: I am not wanting to diminish the enrichment experiences that all our students so rightly need and deserve but rather adapt enrichment to respond to the current situation. We are now looking forward to ending the year with a fantastic interactive whole school quiz, set in competing form groups, alongside a celebration of achievement for all. It is vitally important that we still end this term with a sense of fun and celebration - at a time when our students really need this uplift for their own well-being. The final day of term will also be a non-uniform day helping us raise money to become a carbon-neutral school.

I will also send further information early next week regarding the start of term in January but want to confirm at this stage that all students who have permission to be tested will be tested on the school site before they return to the classroom. This will mean a staggered start to the new term; as we did at the start of this term.

Finally, form tutors will be communicating with all students from Monday regarding additional indoor spaces which will be available for students to eat in at the start of lunchtime. These additional spaces will, again, be segregated by year groups.

Thank you for your support and please continue to ensure your child is tested twice a week using a lateral flow test and that they bring a face mask into school which they can then wear in our corridors and when queuing for food; unless they are exempt from doing so.

Wishing you all a very good weekend,

Tom Maltby
Headteacher