

4th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

As we near the end of term, I wanted to confirm the arrangements for the last day which is Friday 18th December. It is a shame that our traditional pantomime and other celebratory events are not able to take place this year however, as is tradition, we will still be finishing earlier on the last day.

- Years 7 & 8 will have lunch as normal (12-12.30pm) and then return to their Tutor group to be registered. These students will then be dismissed on a staggered basis.
- Years 9, 10 and 11 will have their Tutor period as normal (12-12.30pm) and will also be dismissed on a staggered basis between 12.30-12.40pm.
- 6th Form dismissal will be staggered: Y12 will be dismissed after Tutor at 12.30pm and Y13 after Tutor at 12 noon.

Dorset School Transport has been informed of the early finish and will, with the other transport providers for Budmouth, arrive at 12.30pm to collect the students.

Charity/non-uniform days

It was really pleasing that Shelley School raised over £1,200 for their chosen charity (Children in Need) in our most recent non-uniform day. As promised, here are the dates for the remaining charity/non-uniform days:

- Friday 11th December: Attenborough School - 'Save the Children' (National Christmas Jumper Day).
- Friday 12th February 2021: Hawking School – 'Dorset County Hospital Chemotherapy Appeal'.
- Thursday 1st April: 6th Form - sponsored Kenyan students
- Friday 23rd April: Turing School - 'The Little Princess Trust'.

Covid-19

As you will be aware, Dorset has been placed in Tier 2 following the end of the national lockdown. Whilst this does mean some greater freedom for all of us, there are also lots of limitations to our daily lives. There has been a lot of national debate concerning whether schools should be closed, or move to virtual learning, for the last week of this half term. This would enable students to quarantine for ten days before the beginning of the five days 'no restrictions' starting from 23rd December. The government has decided that all schools will remain fully open for the last week. Therefore, it is important that any relevant information regarding a positive Covid test is shared with us. During the first week of the holidays, school staff will be required to support 'track-and-trace' in any cases where students may have come into contact with someone who had a positive test at the end of term. To share information in relation to this, please use the following contact information: Mr Justin Abbott, Medical/Health & Safety Officer: jabbott@budmouth-aspirations.org.

Free School Meals

We have been advised by the DfE that there will be additional support over the Christmas period for families in receipt of Free School Meals. As yet we do not have the detail of how this will operate, but Mrs Warr is standing by and will advise you as soon as we hear anything. A further letter will be sent out on Monday reminding parents how to claim for Free School Meals if they believe they may be eligible. One of the consequences of Covid-19 has been a national increase in the number of families who now find themselves entitled to this additional support.

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Senior Prize-giving

It is unfortunate that this event scheduled for the 16th December cannot take place this year. However, Mr Henman and his team are making the necessary arrangements for our deserving prize winners to be recognised and all the prizes will be awarded. It is a particular shame that we are not able to welcome back our A' level prize winners and hear from them directly about their first term experiences at university and in the world of work. Arrangements are being made to ensure that our alumni prize winners receive their much deserved recognition for all their hard work and when the time is right, we will be inviting them back to share their experiences with us.

Summer exams 2021

The Department for Education has confirmed this week that there will be some amendments made to the way that students are assessed this summer. Mr Hudson has written separately to GCSE and A' level parents and carers confirming a summary of the adaptations, however, the final detail will not be released until January 2021. It is good news that some consideration has been given to the disruption that these students have faced. The main indication is that the government will keep pass rates in line with those of Summer 2020.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert