

Kirkbie Kendal School

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MHs/BPe

7th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

As we move towards Christmas it has been great to see our students competing in the inter-form rugby and hockey competitions in school, rehearsing for the *Grease* performances all the while whilst working hard in lessons as normal. It is my great pleasure to show visitors around the school and without fail they comment on the purposeful atmosphere in school and the hard work in classrooms.

Carol Service

On Monday 13th December we look forward to gathering as a school at Kendal Parish Church as part of our Christmas celebrations. There will be a collection taken as we leave the service with all monies taken given to charity. This is always a fantastic occasion, reflecting on Christmas in a beautiful building. If your child does not feel able to attend this celebration for religious reasons please let school know via the Head of Year and we will make arrangements for those students to stay in school.

Covid-19

Covid-19 cases remain low. At the time of writing we have five active cases in the school population. However we continue to monitor this closely and to follow the Government guidance. Masks are now being worn in school in communal areas and once again our students have showed their resilience and adapted to this change without complaint. Thank you for your support with this.

The DfE have informed us that on our return to school after Christmas we must complete an on-site voluntary LFD test on students.

To enable us to complete the testing we will **teach remotely on 4th January** with students only attending school to test. After the test students will return home. We will send further details showing when each group should be in school before the end of term. On **5th January school will be open as normal**. If a student does not attend school for a test they will return to school as normal on 5th January.

The only exception to this is students in Year 11 who have their MFL oral mock exams on 4th January. These students should attend school at the time scheduled for their exam and we will slot them in to the testing to fit in with their exam times.

Testing is voluntary and requires parental consent (if the student is not in Year 12 or 13). If consent has already been given for the tests in September, then no further consent is needed. Please inform us if you wish to amend your consent.

We will need teachers to help administer the testing so lessons will not be face to face. Remote learning work will be set on Edulink and we may also use other platforms such as Google Classroom.

Please remember to continue testing twice a week at home over the holidays. We always have plenty of kits available in school if you run out.

Festive Concert and *Grease*

We are looking forward to the Festive Concert on Wednesday 15th December at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from reception in school. In line with all of the events we have had in school this year we ask that masks are worn and will have these available on entry.

Grease tickets are very nearly sold out, so if you do want to go, please visit the Brewery website. We have nearly 100 students involved in the production and will make sure that we post lots of photos on social media. Well done to all the students and staff involved.

Year 11 Mock exams

A gentle reminder to our Year 11 students that their mock exams will be taking place in all subjects from 11th January 2022. We would recommend all Year 11 students drawing up a timetable to get a healthy balance between revision and family time.

Staffing

At the end of term we will wish PE teacher Ms Dent all the best as she heads off to an international school in Singapore to further her career. We welcome Miss Ireland, who will replace her.

English teacher Ms Nicholls has had to retire from teaching due to ill health. We wish her well in her retirement. I am pleased to say that Mr East who has been covering her classes will continue to do so until the end of this academic year.

We also say farewell to Mr Primmer who has done such a fantastic job covering Mrs Macfarlane's classes whilst she has been on maternity leave. We know that the Year 7 Art club and all of his classes will miss his enthusiasm and talent.

PGCE Tutor Mr Clarke is retiring at the end of term. We wish him all the very best for the future.

End of Term

A reminder that on Friday 17th December we will have a final celebration assembly before a staggered finish from 11.45am to 12.00 noon.

We will write to you again with details of the testing on 4th January and look forward to seeing all of our students back on 5th January 2022. On behalf of the school I wish you and your families the very best for the Christmas period.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Harris
Headteacher