

7 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this email finds you and your family well. I am writing to you with some important updates and arrangements for the end of term.

This has certainly been a busy and highly positive first term with our students returning to a more normal educational experience, more so than in the last 20 months. Covid-19, so far, this academic year, has not had the disruptive impact on the day to day running of the school and for that we sincerely thank you, our parents and carers and your children, for displaying such a steadfast nature in what remain unprecedented and challenging times.

#### **Face Coverings**

Recently, based on local public health and UK Government advice, we have reintroduced the requirement, unless exempt for students, staff and visitors, to wear face coverings in communal areas when moving around the Academy such as on corridors, on stair wells, and whilst queuing in the canteen. Face coverings are currently not required outside or in classrooms.

We have distributed cloth, washable and reusable face coverings to all our students that are not exempt, and we would ask that you support us in reminding your child about the benefits of wearing face coverings in crowded indoor spaces. We have procured further stock of these face coverings and will distribute these in the New Year. Hull's Director of Public Health and the Government have reiterated the importance of wearing face coverings in educational settings and we would humbly ask that you help us in suppressing transmission of the virus in the Academy.

#### **Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

This Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021, is Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the Children. A £1 donation would be gratefully received and all the proceeds from this annual fund-raising event will be sent to this very worthwhile cause. We would appreciate parents ensuring that students still wear their shirts and ties beneath and that they wear their normal school trousers and shoes. This is not a non-uniform day and normal standards will still apply.

#### **Christmas Lunch – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

Our traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings will be served by our kitchen staff on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and students have already booked their meals. Due to the extra organisation required, whilst hot and cold breakfast items will be served to students who wish to purchase them before 8.35am, unfortunately, the kitchen will only be serving cold pre-packed snacks at break time to prepare for the three sittings required for the high number of students who have requested this festive lunch.

### **Early Closure on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

The Academy will be closing to all students at **12:30pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021** to minimise any disruption to students' journeys home given that many businesses and organisations are closing early and, as we have seen traditionally in Hull, a lot of revellers will be commencing Christmas festivities from 11.00am onwards in the City's pubs, bars and clubs and we anticipate things will get more and more lively as the day progresses.

If your son/charge requires a lunch before they depart, this can be organised and will be served from 12.30pm to 1.00pm. However, this must be pre-booked so the kitchen staff know how many students they will be catering for. Please complete the Microsoft Teams link below to order a lunch for your son/charge by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 10.00am.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=j748wq\\_ohEugfnLJq2pPrZLaZGd7BUxBthEYwjbhLu\\_hUMFI4N1hKMIRUVEVPTzZHNkRES09OSzJUTS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=j748wq_ohEugfnLJq2pPrZLaZGd7BUxBthEYwjbhLu_hUMFI4N1hKMIRUVEVPTzZHNkRES09OSzJUTS4u)

### **Staff Departures**

I would like to take this opportunity inform you that two members of staff are leaving Trinity prior to the Christmas break to pursue other roles. We say goodbye to Mr Boakye, a hugely talented, passionate, and inspirational teacher of English. He will be sorely missed by students and staff, and we wish him the very best of luck in his future career.

We also say goodbye to Summer Wilson, Teaching Assistant, and member of the SEND team. Summer has developed a fantastic rapport with the students and teachers that she supports. She has shown great dedication to the SEND department, and she too will be greatly missed. We wish her all the very best in her future career.

### **Home Lateral Flow Testing Kits**

Our Academy will continue to distribute home testing lateral flow kits and the next delivery will be week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We will issue out two testing kits for each student, and we strongly recommend that parents and carers oversee home testing over the festive period to ensure that we do not unnecessarily expose other people to the risk of contracting the virus.

### **On Site Lateral Flow Testing**

The Department for Education have announced that they want all schools to run a schedule of COVID-19 testing for staff and students in the New Year, prior to returning to school. Whilst we have only been asked to undertake one test, not two like we did in September, it still does mean that we must organise a staggered start for the return of our students.

We will write to you separately with details of the COVID-19 testing schedule planned for the week commencing **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Please note that as Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022 is a New Year's Day Bank Holiday Monday, we are unable to start prior to this date but we are organising a schedule that will only take 2 days to get all year groups back into the Academy and will be arranged in students' timetabled classes so that students can go straight into lessons following their tests.

I appreciate that this might mean a short delay to your son/charge returning to school but I am sure you can appreciate that to test 645 students and 80 staff can only be done over a two day period and we are working hard to endeavour to minimize the disruption that this may cause.

### **LRC (Learning Resource Centre) Closure**

Regrettably, I must announce that our LRC after school provision will need to close on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in the final week of term and, moving forwards, remain closed on Tuesdays after school in the New Year thereafter. This will be for an indefinite period to allow our support and teaching staff, who supervise in the LRC, to attend crucial training. It will continue to be open to students on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We apologise for any disruption or inconvenience that this decision may cause but we have to ensure that our support and teaching staff receive necessary training.

### **Dates for 2022/2023**

Please find attached our annual calendar for 2021/2022 as reminder to parents of key dates, including the school closure period.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, parents and carers and staff a lovely Christmas and I hope that you manage to enjoy the festive period. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Moffatt

Principal

**Hull Trinity House Academy**