



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of 2023, I am writing to draw your attention to some key information and also to thank parents for their support during a very busy term.



School Christmas Lunch / Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday 13th December

Wednesday 13th December will see a return to the school Christmas lunch day. Last year this turned into a whole school event enjoyed by many as all staff and learners were offered the opportunity to sit with friends and colleagues and enjoy a festive meal. The atmosphere around school was wonderful and thus we are keen to repeat the event. You can view the Christmas lunch menu by clicking here <https://www.westhoughton-high.org/catering/>



To encourage the festive spirit on this day all members of the school community will be invited to add a Christmas jumper to their attire. The expectation will remain that learners will wear full school uniform but may substitute the school jumper and/or blazer for a Christmas jumper. Many learners may simply opt for regular school uniform, this is also absolutely fine.



End of Term

The school closes for Christmas on **Friday 22nd December at 12.00pm**. There will be an extended, later, break time that will allow students to have lunch before they leave on this day. The 944 school bus service has been rescheduled to collect our students at the earlier time.



Christmas Activities

I have once again been bowled over by the generosity of our school community in their charitable donations as part of our “Let’s Share Christmas Appeal”. The school has once again been filled with mince pies, chocolate oranges and children’s toys. At a time when many families are struggling financially, I am grateful for your continued support.



Last night I attended our annual Christmas service at St Bartholomew’s Church, it was lovely to see so many parents in attendance. Next week will see our annual Christmas show “Crisis in Pantoland” – I know our performing arts teams are working hard with the cast and crew for this.



Year 11

I cannot close without mentioning our most senior students in school who have worked so hard this term to take a step forward in securing their futures. They have engaged with period 6 additional classes, sat their mock (PPE) exams and continued to model what it is to wear the school badge for the younger year groups. It is a stressful time to be 15/16 years old and I want to recognise how brilliant I believe this year group to be. Keep going team, you’ve got this.



A personal thank you

This term has seen the school move forward in improving the quality of education we offer and the daily lived experiences of our brilliant young people. They have worked with us to implement new routines and expectations that have helped build a calmer and happier school site for us all. This work has been supported by our parent body, for which I am incredibly grateful. Please continue to support us in maintaining high standards of behaviour, uniform, attendance and engagement.



Additional Support



Christmas is a special time in school and is similarly so for many families. For some however, Christmas can be a daunting time with additional personal challenges. Our pastoral teams know their learners well and will be keeping a close eye on those who find this time of year hard, for whatever reason. I want to remind all of our families that we mean what we say with our school value "Look After Each Other" and encourage you to contact the pastoral teams in school if you are struggling and need us to offer or signpost additional support for your children or your wider family.



In closing may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a wonderful break over the Christmas period and a very happy new year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 8th January 2024** ready to start learning at 8.45am.



Yours sincerely,



Mr N. S Coe
Headteacher

