



THE HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

9th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of term arrangements

As you will probably be aware, yesterday afternoon the government announced that schools planning to finish term on Friday 18th December can convert that day into a training day and end the autumn term on Thursday 17th December instead.

While we are frustrated by the late notice of this decision, we do agree that it is the correct course of action. The closer we get to the Christmas period (and with COVID-19 cases rising in Essex) the greater the chance that students and staff may have to self-isolate over Christmas as a result of either testing positive for COVID-19 or, more likely, being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This decision reduces that risk.

The Department for Education has asked schools to make a decision on this matter as soon as possible in order to notify parents and carers in good time. It is for this reason that we are writing to you today.

The autumn term will now finish on Thursday 17th December. Thursday will be a standard school day- there will not be an early close.

The spring term will start on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Please follow the guidance below, if applicable:

- If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, book them a test immediately
- Until you get the results, your family must self-isolate
- If the result is positive:
 - Follow the advice you are given regarding self-isolation
 - Notify the school immediately

As you know, we have to identify and notify the school-based close contacts of anyone who tests positive for COVID-19. We will have to continue to do this during the Christmas period. Please ensure that, if your child develops symptoms over the holiday, they are booked in for a test as soon as possible and that you notify us immediately if the test is positive. You can do this by emailing enquiries@hrs.education.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Gee
Headteacher

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