



3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### Notices for the End of Term 2 and Start of Term 3

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the way in which you have supported the re-introduction of face masks. I have added some information from the government guidance, as shown below.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, we strongly recommend that **all** students are equipped with a face mask to be worn inside in the communal areas. Where a student may have an exemption, please can you e-mail the relevant Student Support Manager.

### End of Term 2

The following events are planned and will still be taking place unless we have further direction from the Government.

Christmas Show      Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm – This will be limited to the friends and families of students participating in the performance.

Christmas Lunch      Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Your child should have already purchased a ticket.

### Staffing

We say goodbye to two of our staff this December. Mr Hedgecock will be leaving us to relocate back to the North of England and we would like to say thank you to all he has done with the students in his Values and History lessons over the last 2 years.

Mrs Tivey is retiring this year. An outstanding member of the Holmesdale team who has been with us since September 2005. Such a dedicated staff member who has been a support to both students and families over the last 16 years who will indeed be missed by many.

### Library and literacy intervention leader

We have recently appointed Mrs Mann who joins us to support our students with their reading and literacy skills. Mrs Mann will be based in the library which I am pleased to say has now fully re-opened to use before and after school and during break and lunchtime.

### Link to Christmas Edition of the SEND Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/kent.gov.uk/send-newsletter-december21>

### Last day of Term – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

Please be aware that the last day of Term 2 is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The school day will end at 12:50pm for students. If your child is eligible for a free school meal, he/she will be able to obtain their food during the morning break.



### **Return to School - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The following control measures will remain in place going into Term 3.

- Hand hygiene will be encouraged, hand sanitisers are widely available around the school as well as at the entrance to every classroom.
- Occupied spaces will be well ventilated.
- Face masks should be worn in communal areas such as corridors and the canteen, when not eating. Where a student may have an exemption, please e-mail their Student Support Manager.

### **Testing**

Over the holiday and from the start of Term 3 students should continue to test at home twice a week. If a student gives a positive result they should isolate and will then need to get a PCR test to confirm if they have COVID-19.

All students will receive home test kits for the holidays, if your child is not in school you can pick up a home test kit from reception between 8.50 and 3.15pm.

In line with government guidelines, we will be providing opportunities for students to test at the beginning of next term. To facilitate this there will be a staggered start to Term 3.

### **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 11, 12 and 13 return to school. Students will be asked to test during Period 1 and will begin lesson as per their normal timetable from Period 2 onwards.

Year 7 and 8 are invited into school to take a lateral flow test between 11.00am-12.50pm.

Year 9 and 10 are invited into school to take a lateral flow test between 11.00am-12.50pm

### **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 return to school.

### **Attendance Reminder from Mrs A Williams, Assistant Headteacher**

Thank you for your continued support to ensure students are attending school. Just a termly reminder in relation to student absence that students should attend school every day unless they are unwell. Dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours where possible. If this is not possible, a copy of the appointment card/letter is required before the absence can be authorised. Medical verification is also required for any ongoing health conditions.

Holidays during term time are not permitted. Parents are at risk of being issued with penalty notices if they choose to take their child out of school during term time. This applies to both parents/carers and each individual child.

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason for safeguarding reasons, it imperative that you call the absence line 01634 240416 no later than 8.40am on each day of absence and state your child's name, year group and reason for absence.



### **An Introduction from Mrs Mann – Literacy Intervention and Library Manager**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as a new member of the teaching staff at The Holmesdale School. I am very excited at the prospect of working with such a wonderful group of young people and I have already heard such positive feedback about them all.

Just to provide some brief information about myself - I am a qualified Youth Worker with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Psychology and Social Sciences. I am currently undertaking a Masters in Psychology of Mental Health and Well-being. I have worked in London schools for 10 years and have recently moved to Kent.

Having worked in both academic and pastoral roles, I am looking forward to supporting the students during their time at The Holmesdale School. My aim is to promote well-being within the school and help develop a love of reading and a whole school attainment of literacy.

I would like to wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable festive period.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Prebble  
Head of School