

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 17 December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information plus details of any letter sent home during the last week.

MESSAGES		
School	All years	<p>We are conscious we end Term 2 with some uncertainty regarding the latest strain of COVID 19. We will monitor this situation carefully during the break and will send out a communication on the 4 July after any updated Department for Education guidance.</p> <p>All students should take a test on Tuesday 4 January before returning on the 5 January as per our current return to school plan.</p> <p>Masks will remain essential for all students (unless exempt) so please ensure your child brings at least two clean masks to school each day.</p>
Mr Francis Black	All public bus users	<p>We have had some contact from members of the public who use the X4/X3 service, raising concern about the conduct of our students. Please be reminded that our values of respect and responsibility extend beyond the school gates and that whilst in uniform students are very visible representatives of our community. It is a requirement to wear a face covering, unless exempt, on all public transport and the expectation is that windows will remain open and passengers seated at all times.</p>
Mental Health and Wellbeing Mrs Crocker	All years	<p>At Christmas time we are expected to feel happy and festive and enjoy spending time with our family. For some of us it is not that simple and there may be some tricky moments or periods of feeling low as well. Students can access these support services throughout the holidays to help them feel safe, supported and understood. Please share these links with your child/children and encourage them to reach out if they need to.</p> <p>National services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 for free 24/7 mental health text support • Kooth: online support through forums and live chats • Samaritans: call 116 123 for 24/7 listening support • Childline: call 0800 1111 for listening support or have a private online chat with a Counsellor <p>Useful apps / websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For ME: info, advice, message boards, counsellor chats • Clear Fear: how to manage anxiety • Calm Harm: how to resist and manage the urge to self harm • MeeToo: discuss any issue affecting your life • Cove: express feelings through making music in a personal journal • Move Mood: help with low mood and depression • Smiling Mind: exercises to de-stress and stay calm • What's up?: help with anxiety, self-esteem, anger & more • Stay Alive: helping you manage suicidal thoughts • Childline: help and advice on all areas of life • The Mix: essential info for young people • Young Minds: advice/info about things that matter • Rise Above: info about lots of issues

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stem4: advice about mental health issues we can experience
Miss Richards	All years	<p>Covid 19 Testing- Return to School Students will be tested once on site upon their return to school in January. Testing will be carried out by students and supervised by a trained adult. Students will be asked to come out of lessons during the first three days of term to complete the test. We will assume that the latest consent we hold on record for your child remains the same unless parents contact the school to inform otherwise. If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 since Wednesday 7 October, they will not be expected to complete the lateral flow test when they return to school. To ensure students are not asked to complete their lateral flow test where this is the case, please inform us via this form if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 since Wednesday 7 October. If your child tests positive between now and our return, please inform the school via email - school@skdrive.org</p> <p>Covid 19 Testing - Testing over the break Please support your child in continuing to test twice a week over the Christmas break. We also request that your child takes a lateral flow test at home on Tuesday 4 January.</p>
Ms Adams	All years	<p>All students in Year 7 have been working hard on the Christmas songs project during Term 2. Students composed their own musical and lyric ideas and these were put together by music staff to create a series of brand new, original Christmas songs. The whole of Year 7 came together to perform them alongside a professional band on Friday 10 December. We hope you enjoy their performance. Merry Christmas from the Music Department.</p>
Art Ms Tallis	Year 10 Art GCSE	<p>Year 10 art GCSE students have been working on AO1 during this term - artist research. Some students have sheets to finish off for the start of Term 3 and have been given the opportunity to borrow any media and equipment that they require. All students must have completed six research sheets by Wednesday 5 January, the first day of Term 3 for students.</p>
Mrs Jenkins	Baking Club Years 8, 9 and 10	<p>Baking club will begin after school on Tuesdays, 3pm-4pm. The first session is on the 11 January. This is open for all students in Years 8 and 9 and Food Preparation and Nutrition students in Year 10. If your child/ren would like to be involved please email Mrs Jenkins jenkinse@skdrive.org</p>
Science Mr Hake	Year 8	<p>On the 5 January all Year 8 students will be completing their winter science assessment - revision resources are on their google classrooms for them and are linked here also: Year 8 revision list</p>
English	Year 7	<p>By the end of this term all Year 7 students will have been issued with a copy of the classic science-fiction novel <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> through the library. It is important they look after their own copy as it has been issued to them individually. Students are being asked to read chapters 1-4 over the holidays. There are various resources online to help the students with reading the story. Here are two that students can use to understand the plot and chapters: A Wrinkle in Time BookFiles Guide (PDF) A Wrinkle in Time: Study Guide SparkNotes</p>

LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters from this academic year

Year 9 Year 10	Assessment arrangements for Year 9 Science Year 10 Progress Evening
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UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

4 January	INSET Day - school closed to students
5 January	START OF TERM 3
6 January	Year 10 Progress Evening

We are here to support all our young people with their learning at all times and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further support in any of the adjustments we are making.