

15th December 2021

Dear Families,

As we approach the Christmas holiday, I wanted to write and update you on a few matters.

Autumn term 2021

Back in September, we welcomed our new Year 7 students and I'm delighted to be able to report that all students settled back really well following the summer holiday.

The term has not been without its challenges, given the times that we live in, but, with the support of families and hard work of staff, we have seen levels of attendance at well above the national position and students who are displaying the academy's values of aspiration, integrity and respect.

We have been able to re-introduce practical lessons and launch many extra-curricular sporting activities, where the academy has enjoyed some outstanding victories against other schools across the Greater Manchester area, in a variety of sports. The change to timings of the school day has also allowed us to offer many other activities at the end of the school day, of which, Book Club, Spanish Club and History Club are just a small selection. I'm also pleased that we were able to hold 'examination style' assessments for Year 11 students during November and early December, as these might prove vital later in the year.

A small number of staff are leaving us at Christmas-time, to seek new ventures and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the students of our academy.

Mr Casey and Ms Grenier are leaving the pastoral team to start their own businesses. Mr Mair and Mrs Ward leave the teaching staff to take up new opportunities at other school and Mrs Rowbotham is taking a career break from her role as Teaching Assistant to care for her three young children. They all leave with our very best wishes.

End of term arrangements

The academy will run with its usual timetable of lessons this week.

On Friday, 17th December, certificates and badges etc. will be given out to those who have earned awards during this term. Students will return to their Form Tutor in the afternoon for a Christmas Quiz and the school day will end, as usual, at 2.35pm.

Lateral flow testing on return to school

The Department for Education has announced that all secondary schools are to test students, once, on-site, on their return to school in January 2022. Testing at Newhouse Academy will take place on Tuesday 4th January 2022 and you can find the full details for your child's test – providing you have given us your consent – on a letter from Mr Aspden on the school website. I would ask for your support in making sure your child arrives at their allotted time for testing and that they access online learning for the rest of the day.

In closing, I should like to thank you for your continuing support of the academy and of your own child/ren. It is very much appreciated.

Sending you my very best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



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