



16th December 2021

Dear families,

Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard this term and been supported to complete assessments across all subject areas not only by staff at the academy, but also by their families at home. We know that it has been a tough term for them with high expectations maintained throughout and we would like to thank you for the support you have given to them to ensure high levels of attendance, punctuality and engagement in learning.

As we are sure you are aware, Covid numbers across the country are rising and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas break. Unfortunately, a number of staff at the academy have been affected by the latest outbreak and are currently absent from work. There are no additional supply staff available for us to utilise as there is a similar situation in schools across Rochdale. We have kept the academy open for all students up until this point but have now had to make a difficult decision for the last day of term.

We know that in terms of childcare, older students are able to be home without supervision and are much more independent than younger year groups. This means that there is less of an impact on families going out to work or looking after other family members. With this in mind, we will be setting work online for Year 11 students to complete tomorrow Friday 17th December, and this is to be completed at home.

Today therefore will be the last day of term for our Year 11 students and they will return to our academy for testing on 4th January 2022 with the first day of term then being Wednesday 5th January for lessons as normal.

If you have any concerns about your child being absent from school tomorrow and would prefer that they complete the online learning at the academy please contact Dawn Bracken on brackend@newhouseacademy.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 back in January ready for a new term.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'H Gregory-Harris'.

Mrs H Gregory-Harris
Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum and Assessment