

9th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we head towards the end of term we would like to update you on the arrangements in place.

The academy will remain open for students, as has been stipulated by the government for all schools and academies in England, until Thursday December 17th 2020 with a closure time of 12.45pm.

Bus companies have been made aware of the finish time of 12.45pm and transport will be available for students at 12.45pm on Thursday 17th December. Hot food and refreshments will be available at break time for students.

The final day of term is planned to be as festive as possible, working within Covid restrictions. As an academy we are supporting Sheffield Children's Hospital, supporting their 'Snowflake Appeal' and we have committed ourselves to raise £500 for The Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity.

We have until the 31st March 2021 to raise the required funds. To help us reach (and hopefully surpass!) the £500 target, the last day of term will be a non-uniform day with a theme of 'National Elf Day'. Students are encouraged to wear their Christmas jumper! Rather than collect money in the academy we have made available on ParentPay the option to make a donation to the charity as part of the non-uniform day. We are also running a raffle, following Covid safe guidelines, with a prize of a wonderful chocolate hamper that also includes stationery and a £10 Boots voucher. Raffle tickets are available at the cost of £1 on ParentPay and will be available from Wednesday 9th December until Wednesday 16th December 2020.

Covid Update

If there is a positive Covid case within the academy community between now and the end of term we will be following the same detailed procedure as we have since September 2020 regarding self-isolation decisions for student 'bubbles' and close proximity contacts. We will continue to work jointly with Public Health England officials.

Yesterday, Tuesday 8th December, the government issued updated guidance to academies about the arrangements for the end of term (Thursday 17th December 2020) and also close contact tracing for 6 days after the end of term (up to 23rd December 2020). The guidance we received is below:

- *Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.*

- *For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.*

What does it mean if we have a positive case after teaching ends on 17th December 2020?

If your child attended the academy on 17th December 2020 and develops symptoms within 48 hours of being on the academy site and receives a positive test result please inform the academy via the covid@theaxholmeacademy.com email address.

The academy will liaise with Public Health England and support the NHS Test and Trace programme by identifying students/bubbles that will need to self-isolate. We will communicate the length of the self-isolation period to parents of students within the 'bubbles' identified.

If a student develops symptoms more than 48 hours after the last time your child was on the academy site and receives a positive test result please use the NHS Test and Trace programme. If you have any personal/family information or queries relating to Covid please email covid@theaxholmeacademy.com

We hope this information is clear. As an academy and a community we are continuing to respond to government guidance. If you have any questions please do make contact.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Keogh
PRINCIPAL