



16 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well and that you are looking forward to the Christmas holiday period.

As this first term of 2021-22 draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students for their hard work this term and parents and carers for your much needed support.

It is wonderful that we have managed to be open for a full term and reinstate a range of enrichment activities, fixtures and trips and visits this term to supplement our academic curriculum. It brings life and energy back to the College and enables students to feel part of a community again. It is lovely to see students excelling in a variety of ways through such activities and building positive relationships with staff. In the New Year, we hope to have even more activities on offer, including a new student leadership and volunteering programme.

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect our College community and has had an increasing impact on the attendance of students and staff during the last four weeks. This has created enormous pressures for families and has affected the smooth running of the College. However, many staff have stepped in to cover the roles of absent colleagues and we have managed to keep all year groups in College for the whole term. We hope that we can continue to run as normally as possible in the Spring term and that the Omicron variant is less severe than anticipated.

We recommend regular lateral flow tests over the Christmas period and you will note from Mr Oates' letter that we will start the new term with a short in-school testing period in line with government requirements. We will do our best to notify you if the Department for Education introduce any last minute changes prior to coming back in January, so please keep an eye on your emails and the College website.

Thank you for a positive response to my email about the Parent Forum. Over 100 parents have signed up, which is excellent. We will contact you in the New Year to arrange our first meeting and at that time indicate potential topics that will be up for discussion.

Finally, you may have noticed that the Headteacher post has been advertised. The closing date is Sunday 16 January 2022, with interviews during the week commencing 7 February 2022. We hope to attract an excellent field for this important role.

Very best wishes, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

**Mr WN Jenkins
Headteacher**