



16th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the Christmas break. This has been a year like no other. You will know that I started as Principal here back in January 2020 and I think it's fair to say that I certainly didn't think then that the year would pan out as it has! I hope you enjoy reading our Christmas blog which is a reminder of the many great things we have been doing here in the past 12 months, before and during the pandemic. I am immensely proud of all we have done here to continue to deliver the best educational experience we can for our students despite everything going on around us.

I'm writing today to share a gentle reminder of the rules and processes to follow when managing positive COVID cases in the coming weeks. While this is especially important as we head into the last few days of term, please note that they will still be in place as we go into the New Year.

To remind you, the last day of term will be Thursday 17th December. School will finish at 12:15pm on that day.

The school will continue to operate its track and trace systems until the 23rd December and if your child tests positive between the dates of 18th –23rd December, you must inform the school by emailing office@holcombegrammar.org.uk so that we can identify and inform any close contacts.

The school office will be closed during the Christmas holidays, if you have any medical questions please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/.

For questions about self-isolation please visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/

IMPORTANT

If your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms **on or after Wednesday 23rd December**, please book a test and seek advice from the nhs.uk website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

If this happens, please contact the school office from **Monday 4th January** to inform us and we will advise you on the self-isolation measures.



The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Further information is available at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Mass Testing:

As I'm sure you've seen in the media, mass testing in secondary schools has been announced, with the Government looking to start the process from January.

My team and I are reviewing how this will be implemented within our school and will release more information once we have it, which we expect to be at the start of next term.

Thank you for support and understanding throughout this year, I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Preston
Principal
Holcombe Grammar School