

4th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It's hard to believe that we are now in December and Christmas is descending upon us very quickly. I would like to share my sincere thanks to all of you for your support this week in enabling us to have one year group out each day. It has certainly achieved its desired aim.

The government made an announcement yesterday on the extra measures they plan to put in place to make the exams planned for Summer 2021 fairer and to provide greater support to students who have clearly experienced unprecedented disruption to their learning throughout this year. The measures include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with results from summer 2020, so that this year's cohort is not disadvantaged
- students getting advance notice - at the end of January - of some topic areas covered in exams to focus revision
- exam aids - such as formula sheets - provided in some exams to cut down on the memorising required
- additional "backup" exams - to be held in July - to give students a second chance to sit a paper if they have to miss main exams or assessments due to illness or self-isolation.

As we learn about the proposed measures we will of course share this you and your children.

We have also seen the end of the second national lockdown this week and a local restriction tier system put in place. As a College sitting right on the border between Cornwall and Devon, we have staff and students who are subject to Tier 1 and Tier 2 restrictions respectively. The new tier system has had no impact on the College with everyone required to attend school as normal, unless they are self-isolating, and all control measures we have in place have been reviewed and will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future. A copy of the latest College's risk assessment can be found on our website.

As Christmas approaches I can sense an air of excitement and anticipation amongst the children, and it is important after such a difficult year that they have something to look forward to. There are of course those for which I know Christmas can be an incredibly difficult and challenging time and, as a College, we are here to support those children for

whom this is the case. The traditional format for the College's Christmas Dinner has had to be revised this year; however, a full Christmas dinner will be served to all year groups in their designated areas on Tuesday 15th December. We will also continue with our Christmas Jumper Day which will take place on Friday 18th December.

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you to inform the College should your child have to self-isolate if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or indeed a member of their household, and to inform us of the outcome of their COVID test – positive or negative – so we can complete any follow-up action.

Thank you for your continued support throughout this year and I will write to you again at the end of term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Plumb'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

Dr Jeremy Plumb
Headteacher