

16th December 2021

Dear all

Another year ends at JCSC, and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for your unwavering support throughout another difficult year for us all.

Hopefully, despite the rising cases in omicron variant of covid, we won't see another period of home learning in January and 2022 will be much more of a normal year. Fingers crossed!

What January will bring for us and all other secondary and high schools, however, is another round of testing for all students in year 7 or above at the start of term. Given the rising number of cases locally and nationally, and the logistical difficulties with school transport, we have arranged the following:

- Students in years 5 and 6 will return to school on **Tuesday 4th January**
- Students in years 7 and above will have home learning provided for them via Google Classroom on Tuesday 4th January, and will be asked to attend one of the following centres to take a covid test:
 - JCSC Upper school site [Acklington Road]
 - Chevington Community Centre in Hadston
 - Widdrington Community Centre
- Those students who return a negative test will return to school on **Wednesday 5th January**, along with those who haven't been tested

We will share more details about the testing on January 4th in due course, along with a timeslot for students to attend their nearest centre.

We would ask that you continue to support your child in asymptomatic testing for covid twice weekly throughout the break, and we will be giving testing kits to all students in years 7 and above tomorrow. Parents of students in years 5 and 6 are encouraged to participate in the testing too – please let us know if that is the case and we will send testing kits home with your child.

The third and final teacher training day of the academic year is **Monday 28th February** and not Tuesday 4th January 2022 as had previously been identified and communicated.

Please accept my apologies for this error and any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Additionally, due to the Queen's 75th Jubilee celebration, we have been gifted an additional day of holiday which we will take on **Friday 1st July 2022**, along with all the first schools in our partnership.

We regularly consult our students to ensure they are happy at school and to give them the chance to tell us anything they'd like to change. This year, the response from students has been much more positive than in previous surveys, but one thing that is coming through in student voice is that a minority feel uncomfortable using the toilets. Not yet blessed with a new school that has modern, shared toilets and wash facilities, we have to do the best we can and, following discussions with students, we are going to remove the external doors to the toilets for a trial period starting in January.

Comfort and privacy are, of course, of prime importance and I can assure you that this is maintained through the positioning of existing walls and doorways, and through individual cubicles. This means that the capacity of the toilet areas can be much more easily policed and any anti-social behaviour quickly identified and stopped by duty staff. Should you have any concerns whatsoever about this, please get in touch and we'd be delighted to arrange for you to visit

One final piece of information to share with you is that when we return in January, we are restricting vehicular access to the upper school site at the start and end of the day.

To ensure the safety of our staff and students the **car park will be closed to vehicles** other than staff and school buses **between 8.30 and 9.00am and between 2.30 and 3.30pm.**

If you are dropping off or collecting children at the start and end of the school day we would respectfully request that you park outside the school on Acklington Road, rather than enter the school car park.

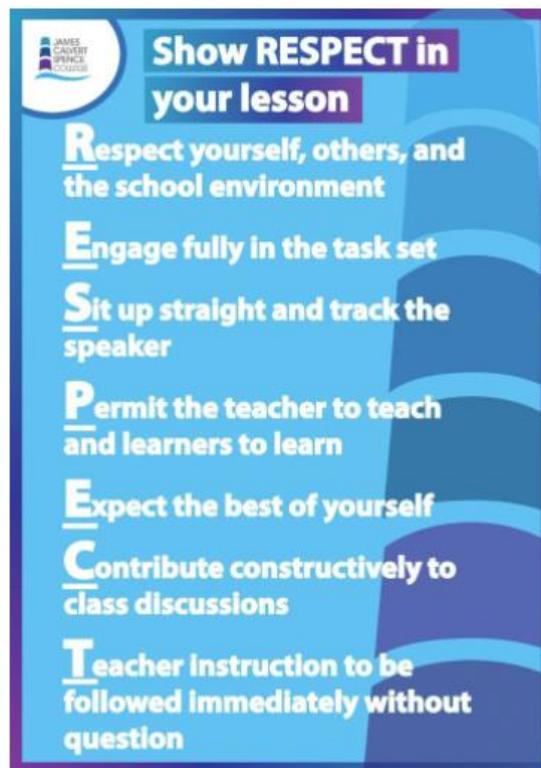
We have some end of term activities planned for the end of term that will take place across both sites tomorrow:

- Years 5-7 will be in their form classes all day participating in a quiz, some games and a film or party in the afternoon (children have already voted on what they would like to do).
- Years 8 and above will be involved in activities with their form classes during the afternoon session.

Tomorrow will also be our Christmas jumper day – all students [and staff] are welcome to wear a Christmas-themed jumper should they choose to do so. The jumpers can be bought or home-customised... I'm already looking forward to seeing them - we've had some excellent home-designed ones in the past.

In sad news, the end of term sees us bid a fond farewell to Mr Bailey, who leaves with our best wishes to join a school in Newcastle. The flip side to this is that we are incredibly fortunate to be joined by Miss Davies in January, and she will teach Mr Bailey's year 5 class for the remainder of the year.

Can I thank parents and carers for ensuring our students conform to the [uniform policy, which you can find on our website or by clicking this link](#). We expect PRIDE and REPSPECT from all students to ensure a calm, well-ordered and supportive community that ensures all students maximise their potential. Thank you for supporting us in these expectations.



Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish you a restful, enjoyable Christmas break and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. See you in 2022!

Best wishes,



Neil Rodgers

Executive Headteacher