



16th December 2020

RE: End of Term Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are almost at the end of a uniquely challenging term and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our families for their continuing support of our school. Pupil attendance has remained high and we have been extremely fortunate – relative to many of our local schools – to have kept all of our year group bubbles open throughout the term (with just a short - but essential - three day period of self-isolation for Sixth Form, when we switched immediately to online Teams lessons).

I would also like to thank all of our students for their remarkable resilience, adaptability and kindness to each other as we have developed our school procedures and routines to maintain a safe working environment, but one which also challenges them academically and supports their well-being. They have worked hard and supported each other – we are proud of every one of them.

We are extremely fortunate to have a fantastic staff who really have gone the extra mile to make sure that school continues to be a lively and stimulating environment to support our students' learning. I certainly couldn't wish for colleagues – both teaching and support staff - more devoted to their pupils or creative in their approaches than the ones with whom I have shared the last term. They are fundamental in making this school a very special place.

As we go into the holidays, you will be aware that government expects schools to play a key role in contact tracing if any of our pupils test positive for COVID-19 in the run-up to Christmas. If any pupil receives a positive COVID-19 test - up to and including Christmas Eve - parents should notify the school immediately via our enquiries e-mail (enquiries@swracademy.org) so that we can begin the contact tracing process. Please do not leave a message on the school answerphone, as this will not be regularly monitored during the school holiday period. Parents should write 'Positive COVID Test' in the Subject Line of their e-mail so that it is easily identifiable and provide us with the following key information:

- Name of child
- Year Group
- Date on which the child became symptomatic (or the date of the positive test if the child was asymptomatic when the test was carried out)
- Parent's contact phone number

We only need to be contacted if your child was in school on either of the two days before they began to display symptoms, or from the date of the positive test if they were asymptomatic when tested.

I would also like to thank everyone for their generosity following our recent Food Bank Christmas Appeal. It is heart-warming and humbling to see the huge number of items which families and staff have contributed, knowing the difference that this will make to families within our local community.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on **Monday 4th January 2021**.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Guest
Headteacher

