

10 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We are nearly at the end of one of the most challenging terms that any of us have ever experienced. However, it has also been one of the most rewarding. I have had the opportunity to witness such impressive resilience from children and staff, who have continued to engage with their learning.

We know how distressing it is for you if your child has been self-isolating at home. You are rightly concerned about your child missing their learning and their lessons. We have been strongly encouraging all teachers to offer 'live' lessons on Microsoft TEAMS at least once a week where possible. Several staff have been nervous about doing this, but many are offering this to support students who are at home. Staff are working hard to teach students who are in their classes at school, as well as provide work for those who are self-isolating at home.

Before the end of term, we are sending out a survey to parents and students who have had to self-isolate so that we can use your feedback to improve our provision.

Monday 4 January will be a teacher Inset day totally focused on preparing for the term ahead in anticipation of another challenging term. Students will return to school on Tuesday 5 January. During the Inset day, staff will prepare in terms of upskilling themselves with technology to support blended learning and remote learning. We also want staff to continue to prepare resources and deepen planning, in particular for Year 11 and 13, as these are key examination year groups within our schools.

I am optimistic about the term ahead. Schools are only as good as the staff who work in them, and we are very privileged to have such committed staff, who are striving to offer great support and learning to students.

We have tried to bring the Christmas spirit into school so that your children experience some fun and are rewarded for their efforts. Each year group will be participating in graduation events and have also played a part in the annual Christmas tree competition. This year we are asking parents to vote for the best decorated tree. Below are photos of the Christmas trees, and if you go to our school website, there are voting buttons to select your preference.

School will have a staggered finish on Friday 18 December after lunch between 1.20pm and 1.40pm. If you need your child to stay on site until 2.50pm, please let the year team know.

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PGCE SCHOOL DIRECT

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope that you have a good break. This will be my last letter to you as head teacher of Caludon Castle, as from January 2021 I will take up position as the CEO of our schools' trust. We will be welcoming Ms Sarah Kenrick as our new head teacher.

Thank you for your support as parents. I will miss seeing your children on a daily basis, but look forward to hearing about their development and progress.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Marr
Headteacher/CEO

