

18 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.

Monday 4 January will be a teacher Inset day totally focused on preparing for the term ahead in anticipation of another challenging term. 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.

Following the recent government announcement, remote learning will take place for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 during the first week. Year 11, 13 and those taking vocational examinations the following week will be contacted about the arrangements for returning to school from Tuesday 5 January onwards.

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.

Thank you to all who voted for the year decorated Christmas trees – the winning Christmas tree was decorated by Year 8. Picture below.

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



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