

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the end of last week's national lockdown, it was announced that here in Cheshire East we have been placed in Tier 2. Areas in Tier 2 and 3 have the expectation that all children and staff (except exemptions) wear face coverings in communal areas and corridors as well as on the school bus. We are already operating this system in school so there are no changes to be made.

The second announcement was an update on next years public examinations. More announcements will follow but this is what we know to date:

- Exams will commence three weeks later than normal.
- Grading will be more generous than usual so that outcomes are in line with 2020 results nationally.
- Students to receive advance notice of some topic areas so that revision can be more focused.
- Formula sheets to be provided in some exams to reduce the amount of information to learn.
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exam is missed due to illness or self-isolation.
- A new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the county.

There will be more detail to follow in the New Year and we will keep you informed of any updates.

The extension and movement of examination dates has impacted on our planned Inset Day's in 2021 on April 19th and July 2nd. I will communicate further regarding amendments to be made to these dates. We are currently reviewing this to minimise the impact on Year 11 students in particular.

As you know we have staggered the start and end times of the day so that different year groups arrive at school at slightly different times. We have reviewed this, and these times will remain when we return in January. Please adhere to these as it supports the 'bubble' system that we have implemented.

The recent Year 11 Parents' Evening proved to be a positive experience. These were held via TEAMS virtually coupled with telephone calls. Moving forward this will be a system we mirror for other year groups, meeting virtually, until it is safe to look at previous organisation or indeed a hybrid model of meeting parents.

Following a recent letter from Mrs Harrison regarding new Public Health England advice I would like to remind you of the guidance.

Extra information to the guidance has been published on what to do with children with flu, cold or other seasonal illness symptoms during the winter. In addition to the 3 main Covid-19 symptoms, if a child experiences any of the following listed below, they should be advised to speak to the school before attending. An outcome of this conversation may be an agreement to self-isolate for 48 hours and to request a test if symptoms persist or worsen. If

the test is returned negative and the child has been sickness and diarrhoea free for 48 hours they can then return to school.

- sickness
- diarrhoea
- headaches
- unexplained tiredness
- muscle and body aches
- severe nasal congestion and a sore throat

Finally, thanks for all of your support during this term. Students have adapted to the measures extremely well and school life as we now know it is in a good routine. I have reflected this in the Christmas Newsletter which will be circulated next week.

Please take the time to view this and celebrate the achievements of all of our students.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Postlethwaite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

D Postlethwaite
Headteacher