

December 2021

Dear families,

### **End of Term Letter December 2021**

It has been another unusual Autumn term with COVID-19 continuing to impact on peoples' lives. We as a school have done everything to ensure a degree of continuity with learning and progress of our students. We appreciate the support that our families have given us during the term. As we come to the end of the autumn term at Thorns we would like to bring your attention to a few matters.

#### **Inclement Weather**

If very bad weather and road conditions make it advisable to close the Academy, we will send a text message or email via the Edulink app to all parents to notify a closure. We will also post this decision on the Academy website and social media. The Academy will endeavour to have announcements made by 7.00am. A letter to explain our processes has recently been sent out via Edulink to all families.

**If there is no definite announcement about the school by 7.00am, it can be assumed that there has not been a closure and school is open as usual.**

#### **Parking on Stockwell Avenue**

We would like to thank all parents and carers who collect and drop off students at the Academy and have been mindful of how they park. We continue to encourage all parents and carers to not block the driveways of residents on Stockwell Avenue or Acres Road. We also ask that you park away from the Academy entrance to allow the students to leave the Academy safely and that you try not to block the pavements so that pedestrians can walk safely with pushchairs and younger children.

#### **Uniform expectations**

On our return in January, we look forward to greeting our students back to the Academy in full Academy uniform. We hope that you will use the Christmas break to rectify any uniform issues and this particularly means appropriate footwear. Black leather or leather look like shoes are our preferred choice. Can I please take this opportunity to remind families that any type of hoodie is not to be worn as part of our uniform. In addition, multiple studs and nose rings are not allowed nor are extreme haircuts (bright, unnatural colours or patterns) or false nail extensions.

Please see our website for further guidance.

### **Mobile Phones and headphones**

A reminder that mobile phones and headphones are not permitted at the Academy site and any student using their phone or headphones will be challenged.

### **Fizzy Drinks**

Please can we remind all parents and carers that students are not allowed to bring fizzy drinks, including energy drinks into the Academy. Water or squash are the preferred choice of drink.

### **Christmas Celebrations**

Many thanks to all parents and carers who joined in with our Christmas celebrations. The Craft Fair was very much enjoyed by students, families and staff alike.

### **Dates for your diary**

Tuesday 4 January 2022: INSET Day for staff, **Academy closed to ALL students**

Wednesday 19 January 2022: Year 11 Parents Evening

Wednesday 16 February 2022: Year 9 Parents Evening

Monday 21 – Friday 25 February 2022: Half Term

Monday 7 – Friday 11 March 2022: Year 11 Internal Examinations

Tuesday 8 March 2022: Family Forum Meeting, 6.30-7.30pm

Thursday 17 March 2022: Year 9 Options Evening

### **Parent Communication**

Once again can families please be aware that contact with a member of staff is best addressed to the info box: [info@tca.shirelandcat.net](mailto:info@tca.shirelandcat.net). Please mark all communications for the attention of the member of staff who you want to reach. Staff will endeavour to respond within two working days.

If possible, we request that families do not use social media to express concerns and complaints about the Academy but allow us the opportunity to respond constructively.

Any medical appointments should be communicated to the academy, or the original appointment letter/card sent in. Please remind your child of the time they need to come to Reception.

We are always keen to support families; on the rare occasion you may need to bring in an item for your child, please try to give us as much time as possible to deliver to your son/daughter.

### **End of term arrangements**

Friday 17 December will be our last day before we break for Christmas. Students will be expected to attend in full Academy uniform, however they can wear their Christmas jumper. Students who receive FSM will have an opportunity to have a lunch. Students will then be dismissed from the Academy from 12.30pm onwards.

### **Start of term arrangements (COVID-19 on-site testing)**

Please be aware that we have been asked to instigate on-site COVID-19 testing for all students on their return to the academy after Christmas. All students who have consent will take one on-site test on their first day back and then be expected to continue their twice weekly at home LFD testing regime. This will necessitate a staggered start back for students with Years 10 and 11 returning on Wednesday 5 January, Years 8 and 9 returning on Thursday 6 January and Year 7 returning on Friday 7 January. Please keep an eye out for a further letter detailing the exact time your child will need to return to the academy.

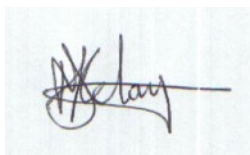
### **Message from the PTFA**

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the PTFA, thanking everyone for their support. Our next meeting is Tuesday, 11th January 2022 at 6.30pm. If you are interested in supporting the excellent work that our PTFA do for our school community, please do come along as new parents would be very much welcomed.

There will be a staff training day on Tuesday 4 January, so students will NOT be expected to attend on this date. We look forward to seeing students back in the Academy on **Wednesday 5 January**.

Many thanks for your continued support and we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours Sincerely,



**Mr M Kelay**  
**Principal**