16 December 2020

Dear #TeamBRIGHTstowe parents and carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

Tomorrow is the last day of term. It will be a full teaching day. BRIGHTstowe will reopen to students on Wednesday 6th January (see below for timings).

Reporting COVID-19 cases over the Christmas break

Please note the following arrangements:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 up to and including Wednesday 23rd December, please call the main academy number, from where you will be directed to our reporting team. It is vital that you inform us as there may be others in the academy who will need to isolate as a result.

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 from Thursday 24th December onwards, please email their name and date of test to hello@oasisbrightstowe.org. We will pick up this information on Monday 4th January and get in touch with you to confirm any action you need to take in relation to your child returning to school on Wednesday 6th January.

Testing of students for COVID-19 at school

You may have seen in the news that the government is proposing that schools carry out daily testing of students for COVID-19 from January. Schools have been given very little information about this, but I can confirm that we will not be doing this as soon as students return, nor until such time as it is safe and helpful to do so and never without your consent. I will write to you with more details in the new year, as and when the government provides them to us.

Changes to start and finish times for students

Having reviewed all our COVID-19 safety measures ready for the next term, we are able to simplify the arrival and departure of students each day, giving them as much learning time as possible. Students will continue to use their current year group entrances, but with new start and finish times as follows:

0830-0840 Arrival of Years 10 and 11

0840-0850 Arrival of Years 7, 8 and 9

1500-1510 Departure of Years 7, 8 and 9

1510-1520 Departure of Years 10 and 11

These changes will take effect from students' first day back: Wednesday 6th January.

Finally, a huge thank you from me and all the staff here for your extraordinary support, flexibility and kindness this term. I am incredibly proud of what we have all achieved together for these wonderful young people, despite the exceptional challenges we have all faced. The attached newsletter gives you a flavour of just some of those things.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas; I look forward to seeing your children again on Wednesday 6th January.

Stay safe and #ShineBRIGHT,

Alan Dane
Principal