

December 2018



WHICKHAM
SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

Dear Parents/Carers

As the festive season fast approaches, we wanted to make you aware of a number of things happening at the end of this term and in the New Year.

Community Carol Concert

Our Community Carol Concert will take place at **7:00 pm on Wednesday 19th December 2018 in the Sports Hall**. This event is one of the highlights of the school calendar, enabling us to celebrate the significance of Christmas through song, music, readings and drama. We would like to invite as many parents/carers and people from our community to join us as possible. To secure tickets, please contact the school on 496 0026.

Christmas Jumper Days - Wednesday 19th and Friday 21st December 2018

We have invited our students to wear Christmas jumpers on the day of the Carol Service and on the last day of term. We ask for a £1 donation from each family for this, which will be collected in tutor time. All monies raised will go towards our chosen charity, Maggie's Cancer Centres.

Gateshead Foodbank

We know how generous our students and their parents/carers are and we are again asking if anyone would like to donate non-perishable food items to the Gateshead Foodbank. These items are made into hampers and given to families who struggle to make ends meet, particularly at this time of year. Items currently listed on the Gateshead Foodbank website as being needed are selection boxes, sweets, nuts, crisps, Christmas pudding, mince pies, tinned meat, tinned meat pies, tinned fish, long life milk and fruit juice, sugar, custard, sponge puddings, noodles, rice and biscuits. Years 7 & 8 have a box for donations in their tutor room and any other items can be taken to the Digital Media Office.

End of Term Arrangements

Formal lessons will end at 2:10pm on Friday 21st December 2018. The scholars' bus service will run at this earlier time on that day.

Preparation for January

We hope that all of our pupils will have a good opportunity to rest and refresh themselves over the Christmas holidays. I would also like to thank all our parents/carers for their support with homework and, for pupils in Years 11 and 13 with revision for the mocks that have recently been completed. The work

done at home really does help embed classroom based learning and is a crucial part of deepening of your son/daughter's understanding of their subjects.

By the beginning of the new term, the structure for the new school build should be visible and we would like to thank parents/carers for supporting the school with our traffic management controls during the building work. These measures will continue into 2019 in order to ensure pupil safety during the construction and no doubt we will all enjoy seeing the building come to life over the coming months.

The School will re-open for all pupils on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Uniform

Pupils are aware that our uniform code should be adhered to at all times. During the winter months, particular attention should be given to warm, waterproof clothing (all of which should be in keeping with the school policy on colour and style which is in planners and on the school's website). Hoodies and sweatshirts are not acceptable and pupils will be asked to remove them. Persistent and deliberate breaches of the uniform policy will result in confiscation of inappropriate items. Trainers / trainer type shoes, plimsolls or flimsy shoes are not acceptable at any time.

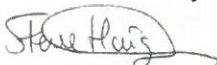
If we do have several centimetres of snow or particularly poor weather, it may be necessary for pupils to wear some more appropriate footwear, i.e. wellington boots, in which to walk to school. If this is the case, you should ensure that your child has their uniform school shoes in a bag to change upon arrival at school. I will make sure that any such relaxation of our normal expectation is communicated to you on our website, the school gateway app and Twitter, however I would not wish for you to refrain from using your good judgement when conditions clearly merit it.

Equipment Packs

Pupils should check that they have all of the items needed in their equipment packs and, if any replenishments are needed, the Finance Office hold stocks of each item. Purchases can be made every break time, lunch and before and after school. Equipment can also be ordered via the Class Charts app.

Finally, as 2018 draws to a close, I would like to wish all of our pupils, parents/carers and staff a wonderfully happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Steve Haigh
Headteacher