

Dear parents/carers,

As we near the end of what has been an unusual and very long term, I wanted to thank you all for your support. I completely understand the frustration if your children have had to isolate, we have a number of students who have had to isolate many times. In each instance we have tried to reduce that number of students we have asked to isolate whilst trying to keep everybody safe. The staff have done an amazing job and have been teaching lessons, providing remote learning and calling home to see how those are isolating are doing. I am very grateful to them for all that they are doing in very difficult situations. There are some important notices that I want to make you aware of.

### **Positive COVID cases in the Christmas holidays**

If your child tests positive for COVID up to and including 23 December can you please inform us by emailing: [covid@macademy.org.uk](mailto:covid@macademy.org.uk)

If you could let us know what your child's symptoms are and when they started with symptoms that would be great. We need this information so that we can identify your child's close contacts.

### **Government announcement on examinations in the summer for Years 11 and 13**

Recently, the government announced their intention for summer examinations to go ahead for Year 11 and 13 students. Whilst the information that they have provided is brief this is what we know so far:

- Examinations will start 3 weeks later than usual
- There will be more generous grading in line with outcomes from 2020
- Students will receive advance notice of some topic areas to focus revision
- In some examinations, students will be able to take examination aids into the examination with them, for example formula sheets
- There will be additional examinations to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main examinations are missed due to self-isolation

We welcome the measures put in place and look forward to the new year when more information should be available. Staff are preparing students for these exams and are putting lots of extra support in place so that we can do our best to ensure that students are as well prepared as is possible in the circumstances.

### **Free School Meals over the Christmas holidays**

You may be aware that the government announced a Winter Grant Fund to support households over the Christmas holidays.

Middlesbrough Council will be inviting households with children who are in receipt of Council Tax reduction to make an application for a Winter Grant Fund. The payment is intended to help support with things such as: food, energy, water, with the amount of funding provided dependent on the number of children within the household. The application can be found here: <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/community-support-and-safety/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-winter-grant-application>

If you are a Stockton resident and are eligible then you will receive a voucher for £50 per child in the post.

**Christmas concert**

Our drama and music departments have been working hard to put together a virtual Christmas Concert. This will be streamed live on Wednesday 16 December at 7.00pm and will then be available after this date. Look at our website for links to this event.

Thank you once again for your support in these challenging circumstances. I hope that you all have a restful break and that you enjoy some time with those you may not have been able to see for a while. I will be in touch in the new year.

Take care,  
Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)