



Westfield Arts College



16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



End of term update

Firstly, I want to thank you again for your support this term. It has been particularly challenging for everyone with the change to COVID guidance, where close contacts of positive cases remain in school awaiting their PCR result, and as you know we had a rise in COVID infections in October and recurring cases since then. However, we weren't alone in this, and schools across the county have been similarly affected. Thankfully, there hasn't been as much disruption to most children's education, but it has been frustrating for everyone to manage potential cases alongside other seasonal illnesses. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

It's made for anxious times for our pupils, staff and parent carers, but once again I am grateful to everyone for doing their best to continue to support our pupils. Despite COVID it really has felt like business as usual, and there have been great things happening and fantastic learning taking place.

Before we take a break for Christmas, I want to give you some reminders and good news updates.

Lateral Flow testing of Secondary aged pupils

We continue to strongly encourage all our staff and Secondary aged students to take twice weekly LFD tests as our best indicator of possible COVID cases. We regularly supply test kits but please contact us if you run out. Twice weekly testing will continue in January. The latest Government guidance from 14th December is to use a LFD test every day for 7 days if you are a close contact of someone with COVID. We shared information about this earlier in the week.

Testing over Christmas and on return to school

Please continue to test your child twice weekly over the Christmas holiday, and especially on the day prior to returning to school. Tuesday 4th January is an INSET day for staff, and **pupils will return on Wednesday 5th January**. We will again test Secondary aged pupils in school on the 5th January, following Government guidance.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 in the first three days of the Christmas holiday (Saturday 18th to Monday 20th) please email covidtesting@westfield.dorset.sch.uk so that we can alert close contacts.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas by staff, visitors and students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on school transport, unless they are exempt. Younger pupils can wear face coverings if they wish to. If this guidance changes in the new year we will let you know.



Ofsted



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Staff news

This week we are sadly saying goodbye to our teacher, Alice Dell'Oca, and Luna, our school therapy dog. Alice and Luna are moving to Canada in the new year and we wish them the very best for their new adventure.

We also say goodbye to Paul Jones and Mitchell Fox, two of our TAs, who are both moving on to new jobs outside education. Again, we wish them the best of luck for the future. We thank them all for their contribution to Westfield.



Jess



Levi



Laura

We were joined a few weeks ago by Jessicah Meteau as teacher in the Sixth Form bungalow. In January Levi Dailey will join us as a teacher in Sixth Form and Laura Chaffin will replace Alice as teacher in Upwey class. A warm welcome to them all.

Strengthening our speech, language and communication support

This term we were joined by Diane Lewis as our new Speech and Language Therapist. Diane is a very experienced therapist and we are delighted that she has joined us. We've increased the amount of therapy we have in school to two days. We have also appointed Elaine Trent as a Communication Support TA, and she will work closely with Diane to support pupils with communication needs across the school. You have already received information about them.

Please continue to check our website and social media pages for all the latest news – there's always lots to share!

All of us at Westfield wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and the best for the new year. We can only hope that the situation with COVID will improve and our lives can get back to something more normal, but until that time we will continue to do our best to support your children.

With best wishes

S. Kretz

Seán Kretz
Head Teacher



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