

EBR/SJS

15 December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the end of a full and challenging term, I hope this letter finds you and your families well and looking forward to spending Christmas and New Year with loved ones – be that here in Cyprus or back in the UK. As always, I wish to thank you all for your support during November when we again saw increased COVID cases in school and the community. As a result of swift action from parents and staff, support for renewed restrictions and positive communication, we were able to keep the spread contained and I am delighted to report we did not have any positive cases from the many LFTs taken in school last week. I would like to extend a particular thanks to staff for their resilience and commitment to high standards during extended periods of student absence and increased worries regarding COVID 19. Here's hoping things develop quickly and 2022 is a better year for us all!

I would also like to extend my thanks to many staff, parents, SGC members and community personnel for enriching our curriculum with so many real and exciting opportunities this term. From DofE expeditions, sports fixtures and charity events to PSHE days, Remembrance and Christmas markets, it has been wonderful to see our young people engaging in a wide range of activities thanks to people going the extra mile to support them.

Whilst we recognise improvements need to be made with regards to the structures and processes of Safeguarding in school, I am confident we have the full support, enthusiasm and expertise of all teaching and support staff to secure rapid improvement in the New Year.

New Beginnings

This Christmas we say a very sad goodbye to two members of our teaching staff: Ms Kayleigh Pettit who is moving back to the UK to pursue a new career path in Engineering and Mr Thomas Anscombe who is moving back to the UK to continue teaching RE. Both have brought fresh energy, creativity and support to the school and will be sorely missed by all. Mrs Marsden and Mr Roberts will join the Humanities team next year until we are able to recruit a replacement and Science will be taught by the existing Science team.

We also say goodbye to Cat Batch, our Sixth Form mentor and LSA who has made an outstanding contribution to our post-16 provision and will also be much missed by our students. We have interviewed for this post and expect the successful applicant to commence soon in the New Year. I am sure you will join me in thanking all staff leaving this term for their incredible commitment to our students and in wishing them all the best for their onward journeys.

Spring Term

Details for the start of the new term are as follows:

- Tuesday 4th January – parents to arrange an LFT for their child before sending them back to school
- Wednesday 5th January – All students return for a full day (starting back on week 1 timetable)
- Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th January – LFT testing offered to all students in school provided parental consent has been received.

Due to staff turnover and structural changes, your child will be issued with a new timetable when they return in January. If this prompts any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Uniform Reminders

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of uniform expectations during the Winter term, as we know temperatures will drop a little and it will be cooler as students are travelling to school.

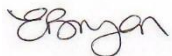
Some students have asked if they can wear leggings in the winter. Unfortunately, leggings are not part of our school uniform and are not permitted for school. If students have a PE lesson that day, they should bring their leggings in their PE bag and change into/out of them as necessary. Tailored grey trousers are allowed to be worn – these should not be skinny fit or denim. Black or grey tights may be worn under skirts.

We appreciate that sometimes it is difficult to purchase items of uniform in Cyprus, hence us sending out this reminder before the 3-week holiday. Hopefully, this will allow time for those needing to shop around, or order from the UK, to obtain the correct uniform.

The pastoral team in particular would like to commend our students, this term, for their general standard of uniform and, indeed, their efforts with regards to effort and behaviour.

Many of you will know I am a fan of quotes and like to end my letters sharing these with you for motivation. I am ending this term with the words of English Historian R H Tawney: "What a wise parent would wish for their children, the state should wish for all its children." Here's looking ahead to ensuring even greater consistency for all children within our care.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Bryson
Headteacher