

16th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing, following the recent Government announcements, to confirm the end of term arrangements for December and inform you about the start of term arrangements in January.

Staying COVID Safe

Please reinforce to your daughter/son the importance of staying protected from COVID. On site, masks are continued to be recommended in communal areas and when travelling around. If your daughter/son uses public transport to travel to DSTC then it is compulsory to wear a face covering whilst travelling. We continue to urge students to engage in the LFT (Lateral Flow Testing) programme and this should continue for the last week of term and throughout the holidays.

Please remember that if your daughter/son has not yet had their first COVID vaccine this can be booked on the booking system for all students aged 12 and over.

Last Day of Term Arrangements

There are no further planned changes for the last day of term, we will continue with our Festive Jumper Day for Years 7-10 and Year 11 and Post 16 should continue to work from home. Please see the letter dated 26 November for more details.

Over the Christmas Holidays

From Monday 20th December to Monday 3rd January the school will be fully closed to allow all staff and students to enjoy the break and recharge ready for a busy term ahead. If you have any specific questions then please direct these to staff when we reopen on **Tuesday 4th January**. Please continue to encourage your daughter/son to engage in twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing over the break, we will be handing out more tests this week. They are also available free of charge via the Government website or at many pharmacies across Kent.

Exams in January

At the time of writing this letter, the January series of public examinations is scheduled to go ahead as planned. Students with exams will have received a timetable via their school email address and in tutor time. If your daughter/son is scheduled to take an exam but has not received a timetable please contact the examinations office urgently.

On Site Testing

As part of the recently announced measures, the Government has decided that schools should reopen the on site COVID testing facility at the start of the term. In order to allow schools to achieve this, the Government has authorised a staggered start to the beginning of term. This means for DSTC

that each Year Group will be given a time to come into school to conduct a lateral flow test before going to lessons. **Students should not come to school until their allocated time slot.**

Please note Years 7, 8 and 12 will have remote learning on Tuesday 4th January and will not return to school until Wednesday 5th January at staggered start times shown below.

The times are as follows:

Tuesday 4th January

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
D	Remote Learning From Home	Remote Learning From Home	13:15	11:00	8:40	Remote Learning From Home	Study at Home
S			13:30	11:20	9:00		
T			13:45	11:40	9:20		
C			14:00	12:00	9:40		
G			14:15	12:20	10:00		

To allow the testing to take place, remote learning will be scheduled for Years 7, 8 and 12 on Tuesday 4th January. This will be via Google Classroom and may be a combination of live and pre-set lessons. If your daughter is in Year 9 and eligible for a Free School Meal there will be a packed lunch available when they arrive for their time slot. Please email office@dstc.kent.sch.uk - for the attention of Vicky Ward by 11am on Friday 17th December if you would like this.

Wednesday 5th January

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
D	8:40	11:00	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	Normal Lessons	All students 13:15	All students 13:45
S	9:00	11:20					
T	9:40	11:40					
C	10:00	12:00					
G	10:20	12:20					

When the student arrives at DSTC they will go straight to the testing site to conduct a test. Students will then need to wait until the results have been confirmed, if the test is negative then students will go into lessons, if it is positive then the student will need to go home and take a PCR test and isolate until they get the result. Then follow the latest Government guidance.

Tel: 01322 224309
Email: Office@dstc.kent.sch.uk
www.dstc.kent.sch.uk



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Testing is strongly recommended although not compulsory. If we have already gained consent for testing in March 2021 or Aug/Sept 2021 then we do not need to collect it again. If we do not have consent for your daughter to test then we will contact you before this Friday. Post 16 students are able to self consent. Please note that it is recommended that students who have received a positive PCR wait 90 days from the date of their result before resuming any Lateral Flow Testing.

We will be following all government guidelines with regards to COVID safety measures including use of face covering and social distancing.

We hope that you have a restful family break and that students feel refreshed and ready to learn in January.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'A' and a long, sweeping 'S'.

Mrs Anne Davis
Principal