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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

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10th December 2020

Dear All,

End of term arrangements

I'm sure you have heard on the news, speculation regarding schools closing early for the Christmas holiday. The DfE have announced that schools can **move** a Staff Development Day and close a day early on Friday the 18th December. This is **not** an extra day being given to schools but the opportunity to move a future INSET date forward.

We have made the decision to continue to **keep the school open for the majority of students** up to and including Friday 18th December 2020. It is not possible for us to move our existing staff development days as we have already undertaken 3 of these and the last 2 are made up of after school twilight sessions, many of which have already been completed. This allows us to break up 2 days early in July when we will all need a break and possibly even a holiday, (COVID restrictions allowing).

In addition we have decided to allow Year 11 and Post 16 students to have a remote study option next week around their mock exams. Students are expected to attend all exams, but then will be allowed to work/revise at home. Teachers will set guided online revision on Google Classroom. This arrangement will allow students to revise for the exams prior to the Christmas holiday and the main body of mock exams after Christmas whilst being mindful of their mental health. We do not expect them to attend on Friday the 18th December.

This decision has been made after taking various factors into consideration; student wellbeing, low staffing levels, student voice and COVID-19. Students will be expected to attend full time after Christmas.

If your Year 11 or Post 16 daughter/son would prefer to study in school when not in exams, then a room will be made available for them. Please email office@dstc.kent.sch.uk to ask for this.

Friday 18th December 2020 will be a non school uniform day for years 7,8,9,10. Students not in uniform should donate £1 on entrance. All monies collected will be donated to 'Save the Children' charity: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>. Students are able to wear their own clothes with a Christmas jumper if they wish. Nails and eyelashes are permitted on this occasion (students have asked for clarification on this!).

Students should arrive at their usual staggered times.



Students will be leaving DSTC as follows

- Year 7 - 12:00
- Year 8 - 11:55
- Year 9 - 11:50
- Year 10 - 11:45

All students will be able to purchase food from the canteen at break that day. For those students claiming free school meals, these will be available for collection during break time.

Please note that if your child does show any of the main signs of COVID 19 - namely a cough, loss of smell or taste or a high temperature, please keep them off school and have them tested for COVID19 and let us know the result.

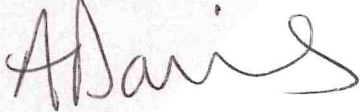
It is vital that you continue to tell us when a student at DSTC has contracted COVID so we can be in touch with close 'contacts' so they can self isolate. This includes after the end of term - please use this email from Saturday 19th December to inform us:

COVID@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Where a pupil tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Thank you for your ongoing support, I hope that you and your family have a peaceful holiday and that your daughter / son returns to school on Monday 4th January 2021 well rested, eager and prepared to learn.

Best wishes



Anne Davis