

9 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Spring Half Term 2021 and Additional Inset Day – Friday 18 December 2020**

I am writing to inform you of a change to half term in Spring 2021, specifically the June 2021 half term. The current Government guidance is that the 2021 examinations will take place as “normal” for GCSEs from 26 May - 2 July 2021. These dates fall at the same time as our half term week, 21-25 June 2021, which you may recall was amended by a week to accommodate the changes to the 2021 examination timetable earlier this year.

You may have seen at the end of last week, the Government announcement in relation to exams taking place as planned next summer. This has affirmed our decision to move the half term, and will support those students taking exams during that period. Therefore, I am writing to confirm that our half term will move to the traditional half term week from **Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021**, with students returning on Monday 7 June 2021. Please note that this will only be for 2021.

In addition, yesterday, the Department for Education prompted schools and academies to think about using Friday 18 December 2020 as a training day, this does not mean a reduction in teaching time, as this day will be made up later in the year. All our academies will therefore close for the Christmas break at the **end of the day on Thursday 17 December 2020**. Please see the Government advice and guidance below in relation to informing your relevant academy around coronavirus positive cases and/or symptoms. Your own academy will also be sending an end of term letter which will include how best to make contact over this period.

*We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:*

- *For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.*
- *School staff are not asked to remain on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching. Where a schools last teaching day is on Thursday 17 December, there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Wednesday 23 December.*

Apologies for this short notice in relation to Friday 18 December and thank you for your patience and understanding around the half term next year.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you a safe, healthy and restful Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Andy Goulty  
Chief Executive Officer