

1 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. I am writing as the country prepares to come out of its second lockdown and as we, as a school community, are entering our final week of term. It has been a long and challenging term for everyone.

But, as always, the students have surpassed themselves over the course of this term and the Christmas newsletter is full of their achievements. You will receive a copy of our winter newsletter before the end of the term via ParentMail.

School staff have also demonstrated a resilience and commitment that could not have been surpassed. They have continued delivering lessons under the most pressurised circumstances and adapted and adopted new ways of teaching in order to ensure that students continue to access learning. In recognition of this, the governors have supported my decision to finish the autumn term a day earlier on **Thursday 10 December 2020 at 3:30pm.**

We will return, as calendared, on **Monday 4 January 2021.** However, there will be some changes to the timing of the school day that I need to share with you:

Morning staggered times

Year Group	In school by	Entrance	Bubble area once in school:
Year 7	8:00am - 8:10am	Oban Close	Tennis Courts
Year 8	8:10am - 8:20am	Woodside Road	Field - left side opposite courtyard
Year 9	8:10am - 8:20am	Oban Close	Field - right side opposite Sports Hall
Year 10	8:20am - 8:30am	Oban Close	Outside SportsHall/picnic area
Year 11	8:00am - 8:10am	Woodside Road	Main Courtyard

Staggered dismissal time at the end of the school day

Year Group	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	3:20pm	3:20pm	3:00pm	3:20pm	12:05pm
Year 8	3:25pm	3:25pm	3:05pm	3:25pm	12:08pm
Year 9	3:30pm	3:30pm	3:10pm	3:30pm	12:12pm
Year 10	3:35pm	3:35pm	3:15pm	3:35pm	12:15pm
Year 11	4:30pm	4:30pm	4:30pm	4:30pm	1:30pm

As you are aware, for as long as COVID-19 remains in the community, judgments are being made at the school about how to balance minimising risks from the virus, by maximising control measures and providing a full high quality educational experience for students which enables them to thrive and progress. Our updated [‘risk assessment’](#) is available on our school website.

We have followed, and continue to follow, the Public Health England (PHE) endorsed government guidance as it is released to ensure an inherently safer environment for children and staff where the risk of transmission of infection is substantially reduced.

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement on 23 November 2020, education settings in England will remain open in all tiers. We will therefore continue to operate as normal with the same high expectations. Our attendance to school has been really positive and I am sure this will only improve in the future.

As per the [new government guidelines](#), students who are clinically extremely vulnerable should return to school from 2 December 2020 in all local restriction tiers unless they have been advised specifically by their GP or clinician not to attend an education setting.

If your child is self-isolating and will not attend school, it is important that you inform the school. You can call the school or email educationwelfare@cumberlandcst.org. Please ensure that all test results are emailed as soon as they are available.

Your child’s attendance to school is very important and it has a direct impact on their academic success. Parent/carers of those students that have persistent absences may receive penalty notices or be escalated to court action.

Uniform

Personal presentation is important in the world of work and we want to make sure that every Cumberland student develops a sense of pride in how they look.

The Cumberland School uniform expectation is that all uniform items must be plain, without accessories, logos, decoration or any other colours. All students are expected to adhere to the following uniform expectations, which can be found on the [school website](#).

We believe in ‘No Wasted Seconds.’ Absolutely no learning time should be wasted, especially in the current situation. Therefore, it is **imperative** that students arrive on time and are well equipped for every lesson they attend. This prevents disruption to their own learning, as well as the learning of others, and

allows teachers to make maximum use of their teaching time. From 4 January 2021, our equipment expectation is the following:

- 3 pens (1 must be green and the other 2 can be blue or black)
- 2 pencils
- 1 ruler in good condition
- 1 scientific calculator
- pencil case.

At the beginning of every lesson, the teacher will request students to have their equipment out and be ready to learn. If students do not have equipment, it may lead to a detention being issued. Please use the next few weeks to purchase the correct equipment for your child.

If children are required to self-isolate we will continue to use our Blended Learning model, which has operated so successfully this term. If your child does need to self-isolate under government legislation, they can still access their lessons 'live' by logging on to their DPR and clicking on the Google link that each teacher will send to them. This will enable them to follow their timetable (and learning) as if they were in school.

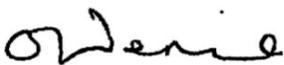
Student managers will continue to make wellbeing calls to support students and parents in doing this and to provide advice and guidance. This is undoubtedly one of the most sophisticated models of remote learning in operation across the borough, and indeed the country, and something the school is very proud of.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support and commitment in these unprecedented times. I am very aware that keeping the lines of communication open between us is all the more difficult when teachers and parents are not able to meet to discuss your child's education in person because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

I look forward very much to the time when we can open our doors freely and welcome you back into our school.

Wishing you a safe, restful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omar Deria', written in a cursive style.

Omar Deria
Head of School