



GRACE ACADEMY

Chapelhouse Road
Chelmsley Wood
Birmingham
B37 5JS
United Kingdom
Telephone Number: 0121 329 4600
solihull@graceacademy.org.uk

11 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Whilst it seems a short time since I wrote the end of term letter last Christmas, the world we are living in now, could never have been foreseen at that time. These are unprecedented times with challenges no one could have planned for. I would like to thank every member of our Academy community for the support, resilience and fortitude they have shown.

Whilst these have been challenging times the level of professionalism showed by all staff has ensured that students' progress has continued. The take up of 'on-line' provision has been outstanding with recent year groups having 98% take up. I would like to thank the parents and carers for supporting the academy in making this work. We are not out of the woods yet and would ask for your continued support if we are unfortunate enough to be advised to send any student home in the future. The hardest decision a head teacher can take is to send a student home, we know the best place for them to learn is in front of outstanding professional teachers. I can assure you that taking that decision has and will continue to be done on the advice of health experts and government.

Even in these odd times the students have yet again shown their dexterity in continuing to do amazing things. In particular this term we have seen students show remarkable respect for the Remembrance Day commemoration. At this event our new head boy and head girl, Caesar and Notoya, led a memorial service in the academy grounds on behalf of all students. Pupils have been involved in collecting and distributing over 5000 items of food for Helping Hands and Birmingham City Mission Foodbank. Covid has also impacted on our annual community Christmas meal, which is something staff, students and the community have looked forward to for a number of years now. We will however not allow the current situation to prevent us from bringing some much needed Christmas cheer to our community. Staff, students and volunteers have put together Christmas gift bags which will be delivered out to the elderly members of our community over the coming weeks in the run up to Christmas.

End of Term Arrangements

School will close on Friday 18th of December as planned, with students being dismissed from 12:00 in a staggered way.

Over this next week it is important that we all continue to play our part in following the government guidance both in and out of school, this will reduce the chance of positive cases and the likelihood of students and staff having to self-isolate over the festive period in line with government advice.



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Advising the school of Covid related issues from the 19th December

Should your child receive confirmation of a positive test within the first 48hrs of school closure or a positive test with Covid symptoms (high temperature, loss of taste or smell or a new, continuous cough) emerging within 48 hours of pupils being in school, parents should email the academy at: GAS-covid@graceacademy.org.uk to advise us. This email address will be monitored for the 6 days following the academy closure, and will be checked once a day; the academy will respond to your email with further advice.

Should your child receive a positive test with symptoms emerging from Monday 21st December onwards then there is no need to contact the school, please follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

I do hope that even under the current circumstances, you get time to spend with family and loved ones and we all hope for a happy and covid free 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Gelder

Principal

For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust