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Principal: Dr Jonathan Grey

8th December 2020

Dear Student/Parent/Carer,

Updated end of term date: Thursday 17 December 2020

I am writing to you with an update following recent Government announcements regarding end of term teaching arrangements. Teaching and learning will continue at Callywith College as scheduled until Thursday 17 December. In a change to the previously published term dates, and in-line with yesterday's announcement by the Department for Education, Friday 18 December will now become a staff development (INSET) day.

In recent weeks the Callywith College Senior Management Team and Trustees proposed to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) that it was in the best interests of the college community to provide high-quality, remote teaching and learning during the final week of the autumn term, as we did during the first lockdown, and for A-level students during the GCSE exam series earlier this term. This would match the plans of other local further education providers and, most importantly, it was hoped that remote delivery would help families to be together at Christmas by reducing contact with other students and staff and therefore reducing the risk of COVID transmission.

However, the RSC has informed us that in this matter (and all COVID-related legislation) Callywith College is defined as a 16-19 Academy (School) and not an FE College or Sixth Form College, and that a full switch to online teaching and learning does not constitute the college being open. **Therefore, in accordance with the updated guidelines for schools published yesterday, we will continue with full, onsite teaching and learning up to and including the 17 December 2020. Friday 18 December will become a staff development (INSET) day, replacing the previously scheduled development day on 5 March 2021.**

It is important to note, if a student receives a positive test result for coronavirus (COVID-19) before 23 December, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being present in college, you should contact us as soon as possible on 01208 224000 so that contact tracing can take place. For the remainder of the Christmas break, and if symptoms develop 48+ hours after being present in college, advice should be sought from NHS Test and Trace.

The collective resilience and determination of the Callywith community to keep going since the onset of the pandemic, has been remarkable. The collaboration between staff and students has been exceptional in ensuring that our students have continued to progress academically, develop personally and maintain good levels of wellbeing despite the challenges we have all faced together. Let's all hope that 2021 brings a return to a "normal" in which we can all return to focusing on all of the important things in life.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Your sincerely



Dr Jonathan Grey
Principal