



Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good health.

As we approach the end of term I have had opportunity to reflect on what has been challenging circumstances for us all. Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to all the parents, governors, staff and students who have welcomed myself and other new colleagues into The Valley family. In challenging circumstances, we have managed to achieve a lot of things that have been essential for our future success. I have attempted to highlight a few of these in our published newsflash. This can be found under the "Parents Letter" section of our school website, under the "Information" header or by using the link below:

<https://sway.office.com/jyi6qAGIVymQRs5C?play>

Year 11 have responded well to the challenge of the past term. I am proud of the way that they have responded to the academic challenges of the year ahead. Attendance at extra sessions has been impressive and we are seeing real improvements in all areas. There is however still a long way to go. At this point it is well within everyone's capacity to add at least a grade to predictions with hard work. I want all our students to come back refreshed and ready to tackle the next part of the journey towards the summer examinations.

Following an intense driven first term and mock exams at the beginning of December, Year 11 students have responded positively to a revised timetable in the final 2 weeks of the term. This prioritised options and core subjects in the morning but provided time to consolidate either Health and Fitness that some students partially completed in Year 10, or the opportunity to complete coursework towards a Travel and Tourism qualification. We will support them further in the New Year with Post 16 choices.

Today our students have had a mock exam results day and a conversation about the individual next steps including Holiday work. We have provided a '12 hours of Xmas' minimum revision checklist for each student. We hope this provides a balance between work and relaxation.

The Academy will finish for the End of Term on **Friday the 18th December at 1pm**. We will finish the year with a celebration of how far we have come as a school this year and how much we have achieved. Where students have no access to home parents should let us know in advance and we will arrange for supervision until 3pm. Students will be able to order a grab bag in advance if lunch is required. The Academy will reopen to students on the 5th January at 8.45 am.

As we look forward, there is no doubt that the introduction of a vaccine has brought some real hope that the most vulnerable in our community will shortly be able to lead lives with a confidence we have not been able to feel for some time. We do know however that the implications for many of us will not see an immediate change. Parents should be reassured that we will continue to implement the rigorous





The Valley
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measures we have been taking all term to reduce risk as much as possible. The guidance we have all been living under remains the key focus of ensuring that students and staff experience as risk free an environment as possible. As a school we will continue to operate tracing and parental contact should this be required daily until the 24th December.

2020 has been a year that will be forever written in the history books. I hope that you all can enjoy a peaceful Christmas period and look forward to an exciting 2021.

Mr O'Brien
Executive Principal

