

04 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Coronavirus

This week we had our first case of the half term which resulted in having to ask some children to self-isolate. 34 Year 7 children are now studying at home until December 15th.

We are very aware that the weather is currently much colder and yet we still have to ventilate rooms. Windows will be opened wide during break and lunchtime to change the air in the room but kept open minimally during lesson time. Students can wear their coat if necessary over their blazer; a plain black V neck jumper is an option and a school PE hoody could be worn.

End of term and Christmas charity

School will finish for all students at 1.25 pm on Friday 18th December and school buses have been arranged for that time. Students will have lessons period 1, 2 and 3 and then have mentor time to celebrate the end of term period 4. There will be no school lunch available that day apart from a packed lunch for those students eligible for free school meals.

Thank you for the donations that have been brought in so far for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal which we are supporting. We were very grateful for a very substantial contribution of toys from one family business and I am sure there will be a lot of children very happy with those this Christmas. Please do continue to donate food, new toys and gifts over the next week or so.

On Friday December 11th and 18th we would encourage all students and staff to wear an item of 'Festive Finery' – Christmas hat, jumper etc - and donate £1 to the charity.

Post 16 event

Blackpool and Fylde College have a virtual Open Event on December 9th from 4-6pm. Please see the attached banner. During this event students, along with their parents/carers, can gain an in-depth look at all the subjects and courses available at B&FC, as well as:

- + Experience a virtual tour to explore the Bispham Campus, and University Centre - home to Blackpool School of Arts
- + Chat to tutors about the different courses available
- + Speak to a subject specialist about specific career routes
- + Get advice about things like finance and extra support
- + Find out how we support entry to university and employment
- + Get help with applying

Students can sign up for this and any upcoming events at the following link: <https://blackpool.ac.uk/upcoming-events>

Uniform Shop

Due to the current restrictions and Christmas period coming up, the uniform shop in Kirkham has decided not to reopen until January. Parents and carers can still buy uniform items through the website for home delivery. Alternatively please phone 01524 388355.

EU Settlement Scheme

The Local Authority has asked schools to make parents/carers aware of the EU Settlement Scheme which has been set up to provide immigration status to those who need it as the UK leaves the EU. It is important that everyone that needs to applies. The EU Settlement Scheme has been designed with European Economic Area (EEA) citizens and their representatives to be simple and straightforward. It will be looking for reasons to grant, not reasons to refuse.

It is estimated that there are 3.5 million EU citizens living in the UK and the Government is committed to enabling them to continue to live here. The UK's departure from the EU means that EEA citizens and their family members will no longer be able to rely on the right of free movement and will need to obtain immigration status to demonstrate their right to remain in the UK. It means that they can continue to be eligible for:

- Public services such as healthcare and schools
- Public funds and pensions
- British Citizenship if they meet the requirements and want to apply

Applications must be made by June 2021; it is free to apply and further guidance on how to apply is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus>

Yours faithfully

Andrew Waller
Headteacher