



Pleckgate High School
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Dear Parents/Carers

This year I am writing to you ahead of the Christmas break under very different circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic, however we still have lots to celebrate and be thankful for.

I would like to extend my sincerest thank you for all your support over the past few months. We have had to adapt to an unprecedented number of changes and we simply couldn't have without your patience and hard work. The current arrangements in school will continue into the New Year, however we will continue to evaluate and re-evaluate everything we do and welcome your input where you feel we can improve together.

When we return in January, our year 11's will commence their **mock GCSE examinations** and it is crucial that students prepare well. Last summer, final GCSE grades were heavily influenced by their performance in these mock GCSE examinations, and although it currently looks like examinations will run this year, **students should not leave anything to chance**. The message is clear, that students must approach these mock GCSE examinations like they are the real thing to ensure all eventualities are covered, and more importantly so that teachers have a true picture of student progress and how to support them to improve.

I am very pleased with how our **Year 7 students** have settled into school life at Pleckgate, despite the current changes to school routines. We are really getting to know our new arrivals both pastorally and academically, and as a year group, they show great promise. As an outstanding school, we are always keen to receive your feedback, so please do get in touch if you have anything to share.

As always, I am thankful for your support in guiding your children to show respect for our school ethos of **Aspire & Believe, Act & Succeed**. Through assemblies we stress the importance of regular school attendance and punctuality, including accessing remote learning when in isolation. As we continue to educate students on the strong relationship between regular attendance and excellent results, I would value your support in re-enforcing this message with your children in the New Year. I would be grateful if you would ensure that your children arrive in school on time, wearing a weather proof coat, the correct uniform and school shoes, not trainers. A **face mask** is also now an essential part of the school uniform, and it is really important that every student attends school with a mask. Where students don't have a mask, they are able to obtain one from their Head of Year for a small donation, but these are only a temporary, single use solution.

Please could I ask that if your child or anyone in your household test **positive for Covid** over the Christmas period, please send through your details to info@pleckgate.com so we can take action should we have to. However, where a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having **developed symptoms more than 48 hours since last being in school**, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by **NHS Test and Trace** as well as notifying the school. There will be staff who will be dealing with Covid tracking and tracing for the first 6 days after school closes, but all information should be also shared with the school after this date as it will help us plan for our return in January, should individual students have to start the term in isolation.

Finally, on behalf of everyone at Pleckgate I would like to offer our condolences to the families of two former members of staff, Keith Ashworth and Aliya Lulat who have sadly passed away over the past week. We are all deeply saddened by this news, but will always remember the significant contributions that both staff made to so many young people at Pleckgate.

A reminder that our last day in school will be Friday 18th December when school will close at 12:10pm. All students are expected to be in **full school uniform**. School will re-open to students on Tuesday 5th January at 8:20am and we look forward to welcoming students back after a well-deserved break.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best and a peaceful New Year

Mark Cocker

Headteacher

