

The Ladder School

The Ladder School, Millennium House, 24 Lower Hall Lane, Walsall, WS1 1RL
info@tls.merciantrust.org | 01922 285848 | www.theladderschool.org

Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Our Reference: End of Term Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by thanking you for your support during this term. There have been many things to celebrate, particularly individual student's achievement.

You will receive a copy of your child's Autumn Term Report in the post. These are also shared with the student's home schools, so they can see the progress that your child is making in school.

Following the change in the length of time that is now required in isolation following being a 'close contact' of a positive case, school has partially reopened today:

Tuesday – Year 11 & 12 in School | Year 9 & 10 Remote Learning
 Wednesday – Year 11 & 12 in School | Year 9 & 10 Remote Learning
 Thursday – Year 9 & 10 in School | Year 11 & 12 Remote Learning
 Friday – School closed for all year groups for INSET

On Thursday 17 December, students will be dismissed at 12.30pm. 'Re-do and Booster' sessions will run as normal; we want all students to end the term positively. Students will have Reward Lunch at 12.00pm on Thursday, as we are restricted in the end of term activities we can offer this year.

To acknowledge the excellent standard of uniform over the last half term, as an end of term treat, students can wear non-school uniform on Wednesday/Thursday (depending on their day in school) with no charge. It is important that students wear sensible clothes (no ripped jeans, shorts, crop tops or hats). Hair must not be dyed and facial piercings cannot be worn.

We would encourage the students to wear their Christmas Jumpers, as school was closed when we would have supported this national event, last week.

Students in school on Wednesday will have their Christmas Lunch as part of their end of term reward. Please look out for pictures on Twitter @LadderSchool.

School uniform and punctuality are important to us here, at The Ladder School and I am taking this opportunity to remind you of how we would like our students to be dressed upon arrival each day.

When we return to school in January, the school uniform expectations are as follows:

Year Group	What students must wear	What is not acceptable
9, 10, 11	TLS Jumper TLS Trousers/Skirt TLS Tie White Shirt Black Leather Shoes PE Kit Plain black top/bottoms Trainers	Pair of earrings (Optional) Ring (Optional) Watch (Optional)
12	TLS Zip Top TLS Trousers/Skirt TLS Polo Shirt Black Leather Shoes	Pair of earrings (Optional) Ring (Optional) Watch (Optional)



As Crested School Wear is currently open, along with other retail outlets, we must enforce that students return to school dressed correctly. Please make any required uniform purchases over the Christmas break.

All students should return to school on **Tuesday 5 January 2021** at the later time of **9.45am**. This is to help ensure that the building is ready to open after the break.

Whilst attendance and punctuality have been improving, these will be a focus for us when we return in the new year.

We appreciate this term has involved new ways of working and blended learning. We thank you for your support in ensuring that students are adhering to those home learning expectations and thank you to those of you that accepted the SIMS App request via e-mail. This will be up and running fully in the new year, which will enable you to support your child with their Home/Remote Learning.

Over the next few days' arrangements are in place for appropriate staff to be contactable from Friday 18 December 2020 to Wednesday 23 December 2020, so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary, should your child develop symptoms and tests positive within 48 hours of last being in school.

Contact us via e-mail covidalert@tls.merciantrust.org and we will have staff on duty at 10.00am daily to respond to your e-mail.

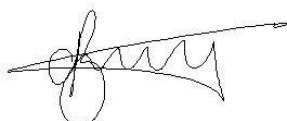
As always, our priority is the wellbeing of our students and staff. We have all been affected, one way, or another, in this pandemic and we really do not want families to suffer, or be disrupted further over this festive period. With this in mind, and to avoid cases in the final week of term, may I remind you to keep your child at home if they, or anyone in their household, displays any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- a high temperature: any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back
- a new continuous cough: coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste: a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal.

Finally, we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor in school; if you think you might be interested in this opportunity to help us develop and grow, please get in touch with me via Reception and I can talk you through the role and responsibilities of being a member of the Local Governing Body.

I would like to wish everyone a safe, pleasant and happy Christmas. We very much hope for a stable start to next term.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Bury
Principal

