



18th December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

As we approach the last two days of term, I wanted to share some end of term notices with you.

Christmas Concert – Evening of Thursday 19th December

Our [Christmas Concert](#) will be taking place as usual in St Michael and All Angels Church at 7pm on Thursday 19th December. It would be lovely to see you there to hear our wonderful musicians and join our choirs with some carol singing. To add to the festive cheer, we will be serving minced pies and mulled wine.

Last day of term & Christmas jumper day

On the last day of term, it's Christmas Jumper Day. Students should wear their normal school uniform, just replace their school jumper with a Christmas one or decorate their school jumper with Christmas items. There is no need for a donation.

During the morning, all students will walk accompanied by staff to St Michael and All Angels Church for a Christmas Concert. Students must return to school after the concert.

The school day will finish at 12:40pm for Years 7-9 and 12:45pm for Years 10-13. Buses will be running at that time for those students who use school transport. The 675 (Colwall/Malvern) and 676 (Wellington Heath) buses will run as one service picking up from school at 12:45pm. For students who take the Daffodil Line, their service will pick up at the Market House in Ledbury at 1:10pm.

If you are picking up your child by car then you should arrive from 1:00pm onwards to ensure buses have left the school site.

First day of term for students, Tuesday 7th January

Monday 6th January is a staff training day and so term will start for students on Tuesday 7th January, which will be a normal school day. This will be Week 2 on our fortnightly timetable.

Staffing update

This week, we will be saying goodbye to three members of staff: Mr Elliott, our Assistant Faculty Leader for English and Careers Lead; Mrs Hunt, our Sixth Form Study Supervisor; and Mrs Lloyd, our SENDCO. I am grateful to all of them for the way they have supported children in the school. Mrs Neville, teacher of performing arts, will be taking maternity leave early in January so I wanted to take this opportunity to wish her the very best.

From January, we will be joined by Miss Mortimore-Price, teacher of music and English, and we will be welcoming back Mrs Loveridge, Assistant Faculty Leader for maths, from her maternity leave. Some of our other, established, teachers who are currently part-time are increasing their hours. This means that there will

be some timetable changes where new teachers start to work with classes and some knock-on changes to the timetable where we have had to move lessons to remove clashes. We will print new timetables for students in the new year and update our online resources. However, the large majority of lessons will be unaffected, and so I would ask if children can please bring the same equipment they would have needed for their old timetables on the first day back.

There are additional changes in the SEND team following Mrs Lloyd's departure and, from January, Mr Osbourn will be our school's SENDCO. We have appointed, also from January, Miss Hall to the post of Assistant SENDCO. This new, non-teaching post will mean the team has extra capacity to support children with SEND. This is a deliberate decision, and we are planning to continue to grow this team over time. Indeed, some of you may have seen that we are also currently advertising for an Assistant Headteacher who will be a permanent SENDCO. For now, with Mr Osbourn and Miss Hall, alongside the rest of the team, our children with SEND and their families should receive the same support they have in the past.

Happy Holidays

My first term as headteacher has flown by and I would like to finish it how I started it: by thanking you all for being so warm and welcoming. I have been incredibly lucky to join a community of such positive children and adults and it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know your children over these last months.

I hope they, and you, have a wonderful holiday. I look forward to seeing everybody in a couple of weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Holmes', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Holmes
Headteacher