

18 December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

I would like to start by thanking you all for your support as we have navigated our way through the challenges of the Autumn Term. Like most schools, we have not been untouched by Covid, but I am proud of the way that the Goldington community has continued to work together for the good of the children. Our attendance figure is 95.7% for the term; considerably above the figures reported in the national press. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole staff for the efforts they have made to ensure the school has remained open and able to provide good quality teaching.

Inevitably as we reach the end of term, I bring you news of some staff changes. Three members of staff, who have been at the school for many years will, sadly, be leaving us at Christmas: Mrs Lodder, Mrs Brewer and Mr Llewellyn. All three will leave shoes that are very big to fill. On behalf of the school, I would like to wish them well and hope that they will keep in touch. As a result of relocation, Miss Harte, who joined us as an NQT in 2019 will also be leaving us. I would like to thank her for the contribution she has made as a Year 7 form tutor and as a teacher of geography.

Joining us in January will be Mr Gareth King, a well-known and experienced musician and teacher of music in Bedford. We are also delighted that Ms Kiran Parmar, an ex-colleague of Mrs Morgan's, will be joining us in January to teach geography. We very much look forward to welcoming both of them to the Goldington team. Mr Atkinson will become Head of Year 8 for the rest of this year.

With regard to your child's return in January you may have seen the BBC article "staggered return for England's secondary schools". The link can be found below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55348886>

At very little notice we have received notification from the government about their plans for January. This means that all children in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 will remain at home, and be taught remotely, from 9.10 am on Tuesday 5 January (Monday is a staff training day) until Monday 11 January when your child should return to school.

All Year 11 students should expect to return to school on Tuesday 5 January and mock exams will go ahead.

Once we have more detailed guidance, I will write to you again. Please expect to hear from me on or before 4 January, where I will make sure you and your child have all the information that you need to access remote learning. We have provided all students with an exercise book in which to complete their remote work. This should be brought into school on their return.

School will also be open to vulnerable students in all year groups, as well as the younger children of critical workers who cannot be left at home. If you think this applies to you, please email rossj@goldington.beds.sch.uk no later than 2 January stating clearly the name of your child and your profession.

It only remains for me to say thank you for the incredible support you have given to both your children and ourselves during this most challenging of years. On behalf of all my staff, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas period and let us hope 2021 is a far more settled year than 2020.

Yours sincerely



Francis Galbraith
Principal