



THE BURGESS HILL ACADEMY

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Our Ref JFS/ESD

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Principal: Mr Jon Francies

10 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am so proud of how students, staff and parents have coped with the challenges presented to us this academic year. We have managed, as of today, to stay open to all students and offer a full curriculum.

Year 11 have the toughest challenge of all. Even though it is hard, they have responded really well. Many of them are making rapid progress since returning to school. Our aim for the year group is to get them all onto college, 6th form or apprenticeships with the best possible grades. For some this will mean alternative timetables to be able to achieve their best.

You may be aware that the Government has made some encouraging statements.

- In January schools will be made aware of the topics that will come up in exams to allow for focussed preparation for exams.
- Exams will be marked generously in 2021.
- Exams will start three weeks later to allow more preparation time.
- A system will be put in place to award grades to students who miss exams.

Once we have the full details of this, we will organise another year 11 parents forum.

After Christmas we will be putting together extra sessions using the information from the mocks to start targeting gaps in knowledge and support progress to the summer exams. We will also be able to access the national tutoring system to provide additional support in English, Maths and Science. Mock results will be released to students at the end of the first week along with updated forecast grades. You will also get some forecast grades.

We will also be putting on an after school study zone where students can stay and access help and support.

As you are aware, following the government guidance, the last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December. In recognition of year 11s hard work, we will be allowing them an early finish at 1.30pm.

School staff will be working through the start of the holidays to the 23rd December to support track and trace. We may be in touch if there is a positive case.

We need to make you aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

· If a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school eg by 2.30pm on Saturday 19th December, parents should contact us only via office@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk. We stress that you do **not** need to alert us about anything else, only a positive test result during that time.

· Where a student tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should **not** be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testingand-tracing/>

A reminder that there is a non-uniform day on Thursday 17th December in support of Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day and every pound raised will help protect children from abuse. We ask for a donation of £1.00 per student for your son or daughter to attend school on the day in non-uniform and suitable clothing for the school day (no cropped tops). Children of parents who do not contribute will not be treated any differently.

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Sisson, our HLTA who has worked here for over 17 years. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for all her amazing support of our students over those years.

We start back on Monday 4th January (week A). In order to safely re open, we are having a slightly later start for students. Lessons will start during at period 2; Year 11 will arrive at 10.10am.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support for The Burgess Hill Academy this year and to wish you all a peaceful holiday with loved ones, and look forward to welcoming our amazing students back in 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Francies', written in a cursive style.

Jon Francies
Principal