



ST/KJP

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well.

It has been a very unusual term and we are incredibly pleased and proud of how our school community has risen to the challenges that this term has brought. Students have quickly adapted to new ways of working, been resilient in the face of so many unknowns, been ready for the changing start and finish times, worked respectfully in bubbles and responsibly worn masks around the academy.

### **Covid-19 update**

The overwhelming majority of students continue to respond sensibly to the routines and measures in place to help keep them and others safe in school. It is encouraging that the local and national cases are decreasing but as we approach the Christmas season we continue to remind students of the importance of hand washing, social distancing and face coverings and reiterating that every little action they take can help to stop the spread of the virus.

At this time of year many students (and adults) will develop colds. If your child is unwell with a cold, sore throat or other minor illness that you would normally have sent them into school with, they can still come into school as long as they do not have:

- temperature
- continuous cough
- loss or change in taste or smell

If you are unsure whether your child should be in school, you can seek further support or advice from the NHS website - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms> or by calling 111.

If your child receives a positive Covid-19 test result during the Christmas holiday, please inform us by sending an email to [covidtest@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:covidtest@scacademy.co.uk)

### **Visits to School**

In order to keep our staff and students safe at this challenging time, parents and carers are reminded that they are not allowed into the school building without a pre-arranged 'essential' appointment. Students should ensure that they have all their necessary equipment for the school day.

### **SIMS Parent/ Student App**

We would like to thank all those parents who have registered and already downloaded the SIMS Parent App. Moving forward this will be our main method of communication between school and home, therefore if you have not already registered please check for an email from [no-reply@sims.co.uk](mailto:no-reply@sims.co.uk) and follow the simple steps to register and download the App. If you have not received the email, or need to update your email address, then please contact the school reception or email [parentapp@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:parentapp@scacademy.co.uk)

All students have received an email to their school email account from [no-reply@sims.co.uk](mailto:no-reply@sims.co.uk). Please ensure they follow the simple steps to register and download the SIMS Student App. If they have any concerns they can speak to their form tutor or see Mr Foreman.

Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall. WS4 1BW | **Principal:** Stuart Turnbull

**Telephone:** 01922 685777 | **Email:** [postbox@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@scacademy.co.uk) | **Website:** [www.scacademy.co.uk](http://www.scacademy.co.uk)





## **Remote learning**

Whilst we are enjoying being back at school, we know how important it is that we have effective contingency plans for what will happen if students have to learn from home. Our communication with parents/carers and setting of any remote learning will also be shared with you through email and the Sims Parent App. Therefore, it is imperative that you have downloaded the Sims App as detailed above.

Form Tutors have been delivering a series of presentations with students to ensure that they understand how to access online resources through Teacher Dashboard, an online platform that integrates fully with Microsoft 365. These presentations are available on our website ([www.scacademy.co.uk](http://www.scacademy.co.uk)) in the student section. In this section you will also find a walkthrough video which shows students how to access the service, as well as how to complete and submit work. You will also find a direct link to Teacher Dashboard itself.

If your child has symptoms and is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test, they should visit the Remote Learning Resources page within the student section of our website. This page will contain a number of learning resources that they can access from home, as well as homework tasks that have been set via Teacher Dashboard. If the test results are positive, teachers will then set all work via Teacher Dashboard for the self-isolation period, which will match the work being undertaken in lessons.

## **End of Term**

The Department for Education communicated updated information yesterday on the end of term arrangements for schools. They have apologised for the lateness of their decision and the impact for both schools and parents/carers and have asked us to communicate to you the changes for the end of term.

Following their guidance there will be a change to our previously calendared end of term date and students will break up for Christmas on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. All students will arrive at their normal time and follow normal admission routines. Students will finish at the times below and will leave site via their normal routines:

- Years 11/12/13 will leave school at 12.20pm
- Years 9/10 will leave school at 12.30pm
- Years 7/8 will leave school at 12.40pm

The last day of term will also be a non-uniform 'Christmas Jumper' day. Students will be asked to bring a £1 donation with proceeds going to the Walsall Big Feed which is a charity run project backed by Walsall Community Church whose aim is to help support the homeless, vulnerable and under-privileged people of Walsall. If you would like to make an additional donation to this good cause, please visit their website <https://www.walsallcommunitychurch.org/activities/the-big-feed/>

We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received so far from our parents/carers and would like to thank you for this and for re-enforcing our key messages with students.

Have a lovely Christmas and we wish you a Happy New Year

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull  
Principal

Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall. WS4 1BW | **Principal:** Stuart Turnbull

**Telephone:** 01922 685777 | **Email:** [postbox@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@scacademy.co.uk) | **Website:** [www.scacademy.co.uk](http://www.scacademy.co.uk)

