

December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well.

You may be aware that yesterday, the Department for Education announced that schools in England could close a day early for the winter break. Their communication said:

“We know that school and further education leaders, teachers and staff, as well as nurseries and childminders, have worked tirelessly over the last term. This has included their important role in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. We are aware that this has led to additional work over weekends and holidays and we are incredibly grateful for this.

We recognise the challenges of this responsibility at the end of term. Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing.

To ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve, schools may wish to use an INSET day, making Friday 18 December a non-teaching day.”

Therefore, United Endeavour Trust Academies will be closed to students on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We have looked at our calendars and will no longer take Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February as a training day. Students will now be expected to attend school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Students’ last day of school will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, and we will finish at the usual time of 3.15pm, with buses running as normal on this day. Unfortunately, due to the year group bubbles, we will be unable to hold our traditional Christmas assembly on this final day, but we will ensure that we deliver our Christmas message to the school through a pre-recorded video, which will be shown in tutor groups during Period 5.

We are pleased that the government has recognised the contribution and hard work of our staff during these difficult times. Staff and students alike are extremely tired, and this additional closure day is the government’s way of acknowledging this. We are also relieved to be able to allow staff some uninterrupted days off around Christmas Day.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your incredible support during what has been a challenging year. If the situation of Covid has taught us one thing, it is not to take the simple things in life for granted, and we certainly do not take for granted the fact that we are privileged to belong to

STBA is proud to be part of the



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such a close-knit community, a community that has pulled together and provided unwavering support for each other during this difficult time.

We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, which will be a Week Two of the school timetable.

Wishing you a safe, restful Christmas.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Henshaw

Mrs J Hingley

Executive Principal

Associate Principal