



# Malbank School and Sixth Form College



*Rejoice in being the best that we can be*

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards Christmas, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your support over the course of this first term. Although nationally the general consensus has been that schools have been “back to normal,” I am sure you will appreciate that COVID-19 has remained ever present in terms of the impact it continues to have on education. Our young people have impressed me every single day with their ability to change whenever required, indeed their response to the return of masks this week showed their adaptability and clear support for the school in helping to keep everyone safe.

With regards our final fortnight, there are a number of events that help to bring a little Christmas spirit to the school calendar. Our Christmas lunches next week are a lovely moment for our students to celebrate the end of term together (tickets are still available for students to purchase from the canteen) and our participation in Christmas Jumper Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December marks another chance for a sprinkle of festive cheer. We still plan to run our annual Live Aid event at the end of term, but we continue to monitor Covid cases and will be putting amendments into place to ensure the event fits the context. Although current case numbers at Malbank are as low as they have been since the very start of the Autumn term, we still need to be careful to make sure that we protect one another and ensure we all have the Christmas we deserve.

**This Christmas, our term finishes at 1.00pm on Friday December 17<sup>th</sup>.** We have rearranged many of the school buses but cannot reschedule the standard commercial services open to the public. These include all D&G Services. We will of course supervise any students until 3.00pm if they are unable to make alternative transport arrangements. Please contact the relevant Key stage if you require this support.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank a few staff for whom 2022 will be a little different. Mrs Schule will be leaving us at the end of term on maternity and we wish her all the very best for what I know will be an exciting new year. Alongside her in Maths, Mr Burrell is stepping down as Head of Maths to pursue a change in career. Thankfully, he is also staying on to continue with some teaching at Malbank alongside his new role but I wanted to take this chance to thank him for all his hard work in improving both the Maths team and Maths experience for our students during his time in the role.

This term also brought us the sad news that we lost two members of our extended Malbank community. Shaun Worth who taught Languages at Malbank for many years died earlier this term and we were also informed of the tragic loss of Joshua Spender, an ex-student who sadly died in an alleged hit and run incident in Crewe only a few weeks ago. On your behalf, I would like to pass on the thoughts and best wishes from our collective Malbank family to all affected.

## COVID 19 Update

Unlike last Christmas, schools are no longer responsible for tracking and tracing individual Covid cases as this responsibility was taken back by the NHS in the summer. However, to enable us to monitor general case levels at school so we are aware of how the situation develops over the holidays, I would appreciate parents still

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emailing the school admin email account at [admin@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk) to inform us of positive cases if they occur during the break.

You may have heard in the news that schools are expected to conduct on-site Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) upon return to school in January. Due to the bank holiday and INSET day on Tuesday the 4th, students will return to Malbank on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. Although we have been given the option to do so, we do not intend to phase our return to school in order to conduct the testing. I will send more information about the testing plan towards the end of the holidays so students are fully aware of what to expect. Consent for the testing does not have to be collected in again following the tests we conducted in September, however if your child has joined us since September, you will be contacted to enquire as to whether you wish to give consent. Students who have had COVID within 90 days of Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of January will also not need to test on return.

As a final request, to limit any positive cases coming back into school on the first day back, can I ask all students to complete their usual home LFT test on the Tuesday evening prior to return. It is important that all students continue to test twice a week over the holidays and upload results to the NHS website and our own Microsoft Form which can be found at <https://bit.ly/MalCV19results>

As always, thank you in anticipation for your continued support of all we do at Malbank, there will be a final video update release from me before the end of term, a festive edition of Gaudeamus for you to enjoy and as previously mentioned I will be in touch before we return in January with final details about what the testing process will be like alongside any other minor changes that may happen in line with national decisions about masks and other related issues. Have a brilliant Christmas and a lovely start to the new year, I look forward to welcoming our staff and students back fresh and renewed in 2022 for another great term of learning and shared experiences.

Yours sincerely,

John Harrison  
Headteacher

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