

16th December 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

I have recorded an end of term video message for you which you can find here:

<https://youtu.be/0fcYviO4kyM>

There are a lot of important messages in the video, including in relation to potential issues at the start of next term following the UK's departure from the EU, so do please take the time to have a watch. Further details on our preparations for Brexit can be found on our website, including a contingency plan and risk assessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my amazing teaching and support colleagues for all their hard work this year, not just since September but since the pandemic first forced schools to close in March. That seems like a lifetime ago now, but I am hugely proud of how our staff have managed our return to school and kept us going all the way to Christmas. They are a fantastic group of people and I am proud to be able to lead them.

Thank you to all of you, too, for your continued support of all that we have been doing. There are always challenges when you do something you have never had to do before, but we have met those challenges head on and are immensely grateful to you for your positivity and many messages of encouragement. Do keep them coming - they really do help!

And finally, a huge well done to our students, who have got on with their learning and being back in school, albeit in a completely different way to normal. Resilient, and full of good humour, they have just carried on where they left off. It has been wonderful being able to see and teach them again this term.

Tomorrow we will have Year 7 and 8 students in school as normal with an earlier finish of 12.30 p.m. when DGSB will close for the Christmas holiday. Please allow me therefore to wish you a peaceful, relaxing, and safe Christmas. It will be like no Christmas we have ever experienced, but I hope nonetheless that you are able to benefit from the break and recharge your batteries.

We shall look forward to seeing everybody again on the 5th of January, at the start of what we hope will be a much brighter and happier 2021. With our new school build taking shape with every passing day, we have much to be optimistic about.

Yours faithfully



Phil Horstrup
Headteacher