



Boldon School December 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another year, I can reflect on what has been a very challenging time and the difficulties we have faced when endeavouring to keep school open for our local community. Last year was without doubt our most difficult year, due to the Covid pandemic and we were continually juggling between staffing and student attendance. I believe we showed great resilience and managed to ensure that we remained open at all times.

This academic year has been much easier, not without challenges and problems, but it has been lovely to see our school full again with students getting back to their daily routines and their eagerness to learn. Students have had 14 weeks of school and in that time our teachers have delivered high quality lessons, which has assisted us with our recovery programme. All schools have been tasked with this since the last lockdown. Data from our first assessment period is showing that students are indeed catching up with lost study time and we intend to use any additional funding to further support students with intervention in a variety of subject areas.

Our Year 11 students are performing exceptionally well and have been following a full intervention programme during and after school. We are really pleased with the effort and commitment they have displayed and we expect them to perform very well in the summer exams. Our focus will then turn to Year 10, who have missed a lot of school time since they began life at Boldon with over two years of continued disruption due to pandemic.

This week, we will be giving out a series of rewards based around good behaviour, attendance and achievement. Attendance continues to improve since we returned to school in September and it is one of our major school priorities for the coming year. Our overall attendance figures and reduced persistent absence have been excellent over the last few years and we will be continuing to ensure they remain secure as we move forward.

We were very determined to allow our normal Christmas activity programme to run this term, with a couple of key changes and so have planned a series of activities to celebrate Christmas this week. This will be a focus in most lessons and learning time, particularly for our Year 7-9 students. We are not hosting our normal assemblies in a very crowded theatre and we will be adapting our programme to fit in with tutor times. Our Year 7 party will be held in the sports hall on Wednesday afternoon and our Year 8 and 9 students will have their film afternoon in two separate groups. Years 10 and 11 have opted to have their reward in tutor time and we will ensure that this is an enjoyable experience for them.

From all the staff at Boldon, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Covid Arrangements

Following the DFE announcement last week ([link below](#)), we have been ensuring that we follow the latest guidance from public health and the DFE to keep our transmission rates down, particularly since the new Omicron variant has been discovered. We have updated

our website and also placed new links to the important guidance around symptoms of Covid, isolation periods and other important information. I have also updated our risk assessment document to include all recent changes and it will be displayed on our school website. As soon as any new information is given to us, we will communicate this to our parents, staff and students.

We have also updated our Coronavirus contingency plan in line with DFE advice and the attachment is directly below.

[Covid Contingency Plan.doc \(boldonschool.com\)](#)

[DFE Daily Guidance 9 December 2021](#)

Road Calming Measure and New Road

Following extensive discussions with the local authority and the traffic planning team, we are hoping that a new traffic calming layout will be placed on New Road at some point next year. The traffic situation before and after school is very busy, due to the numbers of students attending the school and all senior staff are on duty to assist the safe crossing of New Road every evening. I would like to thank all parents and the local community who are supporting us with sensible driving speeds and stopping to allow students to cross at the designated bollard crossings. Hopefully, I will be able to update everyone soon with some exact dates for when the project will begin.

The local authority is also currently planning a new route into and out of the school and community association grounds. Once this has been agreed, it should allow for a quicker entry and exit on and off the site.

Christmas Closure and Return to School New Year Arrangements

Boldon School will close for our Christmas holiday from 12.00pm on **Friday 17 December**. We will host a “**Wear a Christmas Jumper**” day on Friday. Students can wear a Christmas jumper for the day and donate up to £2 for the privilege. All proceeds will go towards the Save the Children charity and a collection will take place during the morning, when the students are in lessons. Staff will supervise the safe exit of students from the premises and students can order a grab bag lunch to be collected as they leave the school. Our school scholars service will depart at 12.00pm from the bus bay and staff will be there to supervise entry onto the bus.

We reopen to students on **Wednesday 5 January** at 8.30am following a staff professional training day on **Tuesday 4 January**.

Covid-19 Testing arrangements – January 2022

The government has announced that Secondary schools are to offer further testing of students before they all return to school after the Christmas holidays. All students are invited to be tested at school once with a lateral flow device (LFD) test. If any students test positive following a LFD test, we will notify parents immediately and ask them to isolate before taking a PCR test. A further test should be taken at home 3 to 4 days later and students should then continue with regular tests at home in line with government guidance. The testing plan for all students is detailed below:

Date - Tuesday 4 January 2022

- Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to come in between 9am and 12.30pm. •
- Years 10 and 11 are invited to come in between 1pm and 4pm.
- Siblings can attend together no matter what year group they are in.

Students should continue to test at home twice weekly throughout the Christmas holidays - we will provide further home testing kits before the end of term.

Students should not be tested if they have recently had Covid or those who have not consented to testing at school.

Should you wish to provide consent and have not done so before, please follow the link below:

[Covid-19 Consent form](#)

Year 11 Parents Evening

The Year 11 parents evening on Tuesday 11th January 2022 shall be going ahead as scheduled. The evening will be held virtually through the School Cloud website, which we used to great success last year. Parents will be contacted by email and text once the online platform opens up on Monday 13 December with links and instructions as to how to set up appointments with teachers. Appointments are limited so please focus on the staff you and your child would most benefit from meeting with.

ClassCharts update

ClassCharts is going live in January. Our new exciting rewards programme will be up and running when we return to school in the New Year.

All teaching staff will be able to reward students with points in the following categories:

General Praise	Outstanding Progress in lesson/ School	Outstanding Home Learning. (Class teachers)	Contributing to the wider school community	Attendance Per half term/	Wow Award
5 points	10 points	15 points	20 points	25 points	30 points

Notifications of points awarded will be sent to parents and guardians.

Points are converted into prizes. All Parents will be sent login information, where they will be able to download an app, set up their account and control their notifications. They will receive positive notifications every time a member of staff gives a student a reward. Details of the reason for the reward and the teacher who sent it will also be enclosed.

New arrangements for Bistro/Food

From January, all food either purchased from the Bistro or brought in a packed lunch will not be allowed to be taken outside. All hot and cold food will be eaten within the building and

once eaten, all rubbish and waste will be placed in the bins provided. The school caretaking and lunchtime staff team are spending too much time cleaning and tidying the yard and it is also much better for the local environment.

This is our way of ensuring that Boldon School is fully supportive of our key environmental responsibilities and supports the continued improvement of our greener approach at Boldon.

Toilet Closures

Our year 8 and 10 toilets for both boys and girls will be closed on the last day of term (Friday 17 December) as we are having them refurbished over the Christmas period. Years 8 and 10 students will be able to use other toilets during the day and we will provide that information to them next week.

Uniform

Please ensure that your children are in our correct uniform every day for school. After Christmas, we will be holding a weekly detention for students who are not in the correct uniform. Our uniform is very basic, but we expect all students to wear the correct uniform and footwear every single day. We will not be issuing shoe passes in future and it is every parents responsibility to ensure their children have the correct uniform for school. If parents cannot provide uniforms for their child, please contact the pastoral team who will be happy to support them.

Humanities Rewards

Year 11 Humanities students have been working hard towards completing loyalty cards to win prizes for a raffle. The person in the year with the most stamps will be awarded £50 vouchers with second place being awarded £20. A huge well done to the 34 students who have completed full cards, they have achieved this through attending intervention after school, completing homework tasks and working hard in lessons. The raffle will be drawn on the last week of term and winners announced in tutor time and on Facebook. Raffle prizes include;

- Nandos voucher
- McDonalds for lunch
- Asda Voucher
- Chocolate Hamper
- Haribo Hamper
- ASDA Voucher
- Cineworld Voucher

Last Week of Term Celebrations

Year 7

- Tuesday 14 December - Christmas cards for the hospital
- Wednesday 15 December 1.15pm - 2.45pm - Disco
- Friday 17 December lesson 3 - Films in registration class

Year 8

- Tuesday 14 December pastoral lesson - Christmas quiz and colouring in. Christmas cards for the hospital

- Wednesday 15 December - Christmas films
- Friday 17 December - Films in registration class

Year 9

- Tuesday 14 December - Christmas films
- Friday 17 December - Films in registration class

Year 10

- Tuesday 14 December Films in registration class and Christmas cards for the hospital •
- Friday 17 December - Students choice of activity during registration

Year 11

- Tuesday 14 December - Christmas cards for the hospital
- Friday 17 December - Santa science workshops and Christmas cards



Christmas is not always the easiest time of the year.

Please use these websites/ numbers if you need help or feel overwhelmed.

- <https://www.mind.org.uk/>
- www.kooth.com
- <https://www.nhs.uk>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

HELPLINES

Below is a list of helpline numbers where you can talk to someone about abuse that might be happening in the home.

In an emergency, please ring the police on **999** for immediate help.

CHILDLINE

0800 1111
WWW.CHILDLINE.ORG.UK

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

0808 2000 247

SAMARITANS

08457 90 90 90 (UK)

MUSLIM WOMENS HELPLINE

020 8904 8193 or
020 8908 6715

NSPCC HELPLINE

0808 800 5000

BROKEN RAINBOW LGBT HELPLINE

0300 999 5428



TERM TIME DATES 2021 – 2022

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