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Headteacher: Mrs J Hadlow
A Colfe's Associate School

9th December 2021

Christmas at Conisborough College 7th – 17th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you with the arrangements for the lead up to the end of term.

Christmas Food Bank Donations: 7th – 16th December

As ever this year we are carrying out our annual collection for a local food bank. We are asking, families, students and staff to send donations for distribution to the local Catford community. We started our annual collection from Monday 6th December. We would like to ask you all to donate and send in non-perishable food items and toiletries which will be distributed before the end of term. We will be collecting until Thursday 16th December. In previous years, we have been able to be generous with our donations and I hope we can continue with this as there is so much support needed after the challenges of this year. We will be supporting the St Luke's Church Food Bank this winter. The Resource Base are leading on this through their link with St Luke's Church, Downham. A shopping trolley will be held in the Reception Area.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for many reasons, but just a small box of food can make a big difference, particularly at this time of year. Foodbanks provide emergency food to people in crisis and their need is increasingly important during the winter period and because of the impact of Covid-19 on local families. St Luke's Church Food Bank and its wonderful volunteers work to tackle food poverty and hunger locally across Lewisham.

It really would be appreciated if you could donate non-perishable food items. The list below is to help you. Suggested food items (please make sure they are all in date)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| • Tinned tomatoes | Tinned vegetables | Tinned pulses |
| • Tinned meat | Tinned fish | Noodles |
| • Instant mashed potato | Long life juice / Squash | Tinned fruit |
| • Milk (UHT / Dried) | Rice | Pulses |
| • Dried Pasta | Dried Fruits | Biscuits |
| • Nuts | Chocolate | Crackers |

The following items should not be sent in please:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Fresh meat | Fresh vegetables | Fresh fruit Sweets |
| • Pastries | Fresh pasta and Bread | Items in glass jars |
| • Bags of flour | | |

We appreciate your help and support with this.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December, students will be able to wear a Christmas Jumper to raise money for the charity, Save the Children. A £1 donation made for allowing your child to wear the jumper and to support this important charity would be appreciated. Other than wearing a festive jumper, normal Conisborough College uniform expectations apply for the entire day. If your child is wearing a Christmas Jumper, they do not need to wear their blazer that day. We thank you in advance for supporting this event and the Save the Children Charity. We will collect £1 at the gates as students arrive.

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday 15th December we will be serving a traditional Christmas dinner at lunchtime for students on site. This will be the only meal served that day and there will be a vegetarian/vegan options usual. Packed lunches will be eaten in the Hall or Canteen as usual. There will be a reduced morning break service that day as we prepare for the Christmas lunch.

End of term: Friday 17th December

This is the last day of the Autumn Term and students on site will be dismissed from 12.30pm onwards. This will be a non-uniform day for students. It should be appropriate dress with no crop tops or offensive pictures or words on the clothing.

Goodbye and Good luck

Very sadly, we say goodbye and best wishes to Kirsty Stevenson, Head of Humanities, who will be leaving us at the end of term. Ms Stevenson has taught at Conisborough College for 6 years and we thank her for all her hard work and commitment to all our students throughout her time with us.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Waters will be our new Head of Humanities.

Ofsted Report

We are pleased to share with you the Ofsted report from our recent inspection on the 3rd November. Please see below the link:

<https://www.conisboroughcollege.co.uk/about-conisborough-college/ofsted-report/>

It continues to recognise the ongoing improvements of the school. It has been released to us early before it goes public from Monday 13th December on the Ofsted website. We are pleased to share this with you in advance of the public availability of it.

Covid-19

Our Out of Hour Covid-19 service will be operational during the school Christmas Closure. This is so that staff and parents can report any case of Corona Virus to us. We will then carry out the risk assessment and alert all relevant people to the case and what it means for self-isolation. In the event of a case we will notify parents by letter and text as to what you need to do and how long any period of self-isolation is going to be. We are obviously hoping that there will not be any further cases, however, if there are, schools have a responsibility to let you know so that the appropriate actions are taken by everyone concerned. This is all being supported by public Health and the Local Authority as well as the Department for Education.

As parents of Years 8, 9 and 11, 10R, 100 and 7S are aware, we have taken precautionary measures in line with Public Health advice and the testing of students in these identified groups due to positive cases potentially affecting them. Now schools are expected to test students rather than send them home for 10 days. If a test shows a positive result, the student is sent home and must complete a confirmatory PCR test and self-isolate for 10 days if the PCR result shows a positive result. This will also affect other members of the household especially if unvaccinated and if the adults have not had the booster jab.

We made a very good start to the school year and we had a high level of compliance and understanding from students as to why they must keep to social distancing, wear face coverings and use hand sanitiser – Hands – Face – Space. Most of our students continue to do this and to follow the Safe-on-Site directions. Wearing their lanyards is very important and we do ask that you make sure that your daughter/son leaves home with it in the mornings. Replacement lanyards are £1 each from the Student Services. Please do continue to reinforce the importance of face coverings. Students should attend school every day with their face coverings please.

We expect all our young people to behave responsibly and safely in order to protect families, friends and the whole school community. The relentlessness of it is challenging and the need to be consistent with everything is demanding for everyone. However, taking short cuts and disregarding the guidance is proving costly in so many ways. We do not want anyone to have their Christmas festive seasons put at risk or their health and well-being.

Students are expected to wear their masks inside the gates on arrival, in communal settings including the classroom at all times. When they are outside at break or lunchtime or in a PE lessons, they take them off. Please make sure that they have several masks with them each day. Staff are also wearing their face covering at these times and in these settings as well. We have good ventilation in all classrooms, and we have our government issued Carbon Dioxide monitors fitted as well. We have also maintained the daily cleaning routine as well.

We have experienced students on site with symptoms which is a significant hazard all round. We do ask you as parents/carers of the school not to send your child in if they are unwell especially with coronavirus symptoms. We are more than happy to help with access to test kits but the quickest way to get a test is to book one on line or by ringing 119. We are always happy to give help and advice over the phone. Thank you for appreciating that it is not always possible to meet you face to face although we have done this with appropriate measures in place in some cases.

Coronavirus has been and continues to be a challenge for us all, but we are all in this together and working as a community on preventing transmission of the virus is so crucial if we are going to reduce risk and anxiety. Please do seriously consider letting your child have the vaccine as this does help. We have seen the benefits of the vaccines, boosters and flu jabs on the school community. We have students and staff with underlying health conditions in the school and we all need to do what we can to reduce the risk of transmission. It is personal choice, however, the risks can be great for those who contract the virus even as a healthy person.

Please as parents and carers, make sure that your child does follow the self-isolation expectations if applicable, that they remain in doors and that your child does keep to social distancing at all time. They must always behave safely to not just protect you as families but also the rest of the school community – their teachers and staff of the school and other students. We do not want to see anyone at further risk especially as we lead up to the Christmas season.

All our students are all aware of how often we repeatedly remind them, indeed nag them, about the importance of keeping to all the routines we have in place for hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and no physical contact. This is very important, and we urge parents to reinforce this with their child. We must all do our bit to contain the virus in every way possible. All students must come to school with a supply of masks and follow all expectations of safe behaviour on site as well as in the community. I cannot reinforce strongly enough the need for responsible behaviour at this time.

Start of Spring Term

The school re-opens on Tuesday 4th January for staff only. This is a staff training day. There will be a phased return for students as we are required to test every student before they return to school in January. The details are below:

Tuesday 4th January

Year 7 and 11 will be sent times to attend for testing at school on 4th January, prior to returning on Wednesday 5th January.

Wednesday 5th January

Lesson start for Years 7 and 11. Normal school day and full school uniform should be worn.

Years 8, 9 and 10 will be sent appointment times to attend for testing only. Lessons start for Years 8, 9 and 10 on Thursday 6th January.

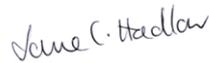
Thursday 6th January

All student's in all lessons at school following their Covid test.

The staff of the school have worked tirelessly this term to make sure that your child's learning has not been disadvantaged any further. Thank you for your continued support of your child's learning at what is so often described as a challenging, unprecedented and strange time. With Christmas ahead, and the chance for some much-needed rest, I hope that you and your family have a safe and restful time. We will see everyone back in January, hopefully fit, healthy and well.

A Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday to you all.

Best wishes



Mrs J Hadlow
Headteacher