



The Triple Crown Centre

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Miss E Clarke, Headteacher

9th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As the Christmas holiday approaches, I would like to share with you the following information:

Covid-19 and the Christmas holiday

We have been advised that all staff and students should use lateral flow tests in line with national guidance i.e. test if they will be spending time in crowded/enclosed spaces and before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they encounter the virus. All staff and students in educational and childcare settings should take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return to school in January. They should then continue to test twice weekly.

As you will appreciate, this information is only current as I write this letter. If anything changes, we will contact you before the start of term.

The Triple Crown Centre web-site

Please log on to www.triple-crown.solihull.sch.uk to access all up to date information in relation to, for example; school news and events, Covid-19, term dates, policies and documents, the curriculum, careers guidance, SEND and our Management Board. There is also a useful link to the external 'Parent Info' site, which provides guidance regarding the promotion of young people's wellbeing and resilience.

Winter clothing

In line with other schools, outdoor coats are not allowed to be worn in our indoor environment. Due to fluctuating temperatures during the winter and in our school building, we do advise students to anticipate this and wear layers of clothes. This is particularly important at the moment, with windows expected to be open to allow for sufficient ventilation.

Lateness to school

Being on time to school is a legal requirement for all children and young people. Please see below re the impact of persistent lateness.

Getting your child to school on time really matters.		
If in a school year your child is late every day...	Your child would have lost approximately...	Or they would have missed approximately...
5 minutes	3 days from school	16 lessons
10 minutes	5 days from school	32 lessons
15 minutes	8 days from school	48 lessons
20 minutes	11 days from school	63 lessons
30 minutes	16 days from school	95 lessons

If students are late to our school, they also miss information provided at the beginning of the morning, which may well create additional anxiety in relation to any changes/updates.

The session before first lesson is when students have the opportunity to either be supported by their Achievement Mentor or to learn about well-being strategies and the world around them. This is a really important aspect of students' wider learning.

We are expected to take appropriate action to address any punctuality concerns. Registers have to record every time a student is late to school, with an associated explanation.

Persistent, severe or unexplained lateness can be classed as unauthorised absence and may be referred to the Local Authority.

Year 11 GCSE Mock examinations

Year 11 students will have completed their mock GCSE Art exam before the Christmas break. Written examinations begin on **Monday 10th January**. Students have been issued with individual examination timetables and a copy has been posted out to Year 11 parents/carers.

It is always the case that mock exam results contribute to final GCSE predicted grades.

At this point in time, we are fully expecting exams to take place in the summer, but the DfE and Ofqual have contingency plans in place for the unlikely event of results having to be based on Teacher Assessment Grades, as was the situation last summer. If this is the case, the implication of mock exam outcomes is of even greater significance, as they will be submitted as one aspect of teacher evidence. I would like to wish our students every success for this important stage of their school life and I know you will support your son/daughter in revising and preparing for these exams.

Careers education

We have maintained our involvement in the Solihull 'Life Ready' programme, with invaluable support from our Local Authority Enterprise Co-ordinator (Lucy Lewis), our school's Enterprise Adviser (Paula Greenwood) and our Parent Governor (Rachel Brooke).

A wide range of related learning has taken place within PSHE and ASDAN, supported by the addressing of careers/employability skills through other areas of the curriculum.

All students have accessed 1:1 impartial careers advice and guidance from our external Career Adviser and this will continue in the new year.

This term, there has also been a range of co-curriculum experiences to supplement and enhance students' knowledge, understanding and skill development. I would like to congratulate students for their positive contribution to the:

- ❖ Sessions at Solihull's Forest School, when students were made aware of careers within forestry/ecology
- ❖ ASK (Amazing Apprenticeships) workshops for Years 10 and 11, supporting their understanding of apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels
- ❖ 'Travel training' provided by the LA
- ❖ Learning provided by the Aston Villa Foundation, specifically relating to growth mindset approaches
- ❖ Decorating and carpentry work experience at Birmingham City Boxing Club (Year 11)
- ❖ Opportunities offered during the Birmingham Botanical Gardens visit
- ❖ NatWest CareerSense workshop (Years 10 and 11)
- ❖ STEM activities during our Life Ready Day, when students gained knowledge and understanding from Birmingham University ambassadors, whilst also taking part in an extremely competitive product design activity
- ❖ Skills for Success programme's initial interviews and sessions (Year 11)

The links below are to careers information you might find useful:

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-choose-my-next-step/school/how-to-decide-what-to-do-after-school/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2021/11/Parent-Pack-November-2021.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers/what-are-t-levels-video>

https://gbstpn.org/pluginfile.php/161/block_html/content/BSTPN%20Spotty%20Grid%20-%20June-2020.pdf?time=1593452970799

You can access these directly, via a copy of this letter on the school website.

Children in Need

A huge 'thank you' to staff, students and you as parents/carers for supporting our successful Children in Need charity event. All money raised will help make a difference to the lives of others.

Plastic Free Schools programme

The Triple Crown Centre is taking part in the 'Plastic Free Schools Programme', which aims to equip and empower young people with the tools to create positive, lasting environmental change.

At the start of autumn term, Nigel Cutts from 'Surfers Against Sewage' came to speak to us about the problem of plastic waste and how our school can make a difference in tackling climate change.

As a school, we organised our own litter pick in and around our school community. Both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and collected over four bags of rubbish. Students will now form a 'Plastic Action Group' to tackle single use plastic in our school community.



End and beginning of terms

As you are aware, school closes on **Friday 17th December** for the Christmas holiday.

We have planned for students to leave at **1.15pm** and transport has been informed of this early departure time. If this is difficult for individual parents/carers, please let us know and alternative arrangements can be made for your son/daughter.

Spring term starts for students on **Wednesday 5th January** (normal time).

Tuesday 4th January is a Training Day for staff.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'well done' to students for all their achievements this term, as well as a 'thank you' to you as parents/carers for your support.

Best wishes for a very happy, safe and healthy Christmas with your families.

Yours faithfully

Miss E Clarke

Headteacher