

Head's Newsletter

10 December 2021

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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the latest newsletter – I hope all is well with you and your families.

Christmas Jumper Day

It was a lovely atmosphere around school for Christmas jumper day, with many youngsters getting into the festive spirit! Voluntary contributions were collected to raise money for Save the Children, and I will confirm the grand total in my final newsletter of the week next year.



Christmas Lunch & Arrangements for the Final Week

A reminder that Christmas lunch will be held on Thursday 16 December. My Santa hat is ready and I have been practising my serving skills! The last day of term (17 December) will feature Christmas year group assemblies and extended form time activities during periods 4 and 5.

Year 11 Winter Mocks

Year 11 have continued to work hard and conduct themselves excellently in mock exams this week. Exams for the core subjects have now been completed, and next week the final papers will be completed in a variety of option subjects.

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Latest Sporting News

This week, news has emerged of some outstanding sporting student success. Grace Greenhalf, who swims for the City of Norwich swimming club, qualified in five events for the Swim England National Short Course Championships last weekend, which were held at Pond's Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield. In the 100m individual medley heats, she achieved a time of 1:05.46 which both qualified her for the national final as well as setting a new junior Norfolk record in the event. She then went on to win the national junior final, again breaking the Norfolk record with a time of 1:04.80. What a fantastic achievement – congratulations Grace!



Two of our students who play netball – Katie Middleton (Year 9) and Maddy Hamilton (Year 10) – represented the Norfolk U15B Squad in fixtures against Suffolk and Cambridge. The girls played their part in two wins. A big well done to both!

MFL Stars of the Week

This week's stars are:

Nathan Gooch (Y10)

Jack Custance (Y7)

Well done for your excellent efforts!



Year 7 MFL Option Choices

Students in Year 7 have until 9.00am on Tuesday 13 December to make the Modern Foreign Language choices for key stage 3. The letter previously sent by Mr Rushton is attached with this newsletter should you need a reminder. It includes the link where choices can be registered.

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Christmas Appeals - The Peoples' Picnic and BEFA Sugar for Shelter Appeal

A reminder that our Christmas appeals are still open for contributions until the middle of next week. Year 10 students have worked hard with staff to set up two charity collections/appeals as we head towards the Christmas break, including publicising the collections.

The Peoples' Picnic is a group of people dedicated to making sure the less fortunate and vulnerable people of Norwich and surrounding areas are not forgotten - especially at Christmas. As a school we would like students and families, if possible, to donate items (see below). These will be used to put together as small gift parcels for a person to receive over the Christmas holidays. The collections are being led within individual form groups, and the deadline is **Tuesday 14 September**. Items that can be donated include:

- Travel Games (EG). Pocket Yahtzee/Monopoly/cards/Top Trumps etc.
- Chocolate/sweets (in packaging)
- Plasters
- Gloves
- Face Masks/bandanas
- Socks
- Baby wipes
- Fragranced body spray sets for men and women
- Vaseline/lip balm
- Travel sized hand cream/Deodorant (roll on)

We are also going to fundraise for the BEFA Sugar for Shelter Appeal. Students can donate the following items to be used in homeless shelters throughout the UK:

- Bags of Sugar
- Boxes of tea bags
- Jars of coffee

The sugar will be used for tea/coffee and to make cakes/biscuits. The deadline for donation of these items is Wednesday 15 December.



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Loddon Community Gym

The Loddon community gym is offering free membership to students over 16. For those interested, one-hour sessions cost £5.

C19 Testing & January Staggered Start

Earlier in the week, I wrote to families regarding the staggered return in January. This is being used to support on site Covid-19 testing, and will allow us to lower the risk of transmission between students. The staggered start is as follows:

- Years 11 and 10 – Wednesday 5 January
- Years 9 and 8 – Thursday 6 January
- Year 7 – Friday 7 January

Students not attending from Wednesday 5 January will have work set on MS Teams.

A plea to continue testing in the last week of term.

Emergency Closure Reminder

It is the time of the year when extreme weather becomes a possibility. Norfolk seems to have escaped lightly compared to some areas in recent days. A reminder that should there be extreme weather such as heavy snow, any emergency closure would be a last resort, and the following communication channels would be used to inform families:

- Email message sent via Group Call
- Our school will be listed on the Norfolk emergency closure website – this can be accessed [here](#) and is updated regularly
- Radio Norfolk often names schools that have had to close on their breakfast show

Best wishes, take care and have a great weekend.

Ross Li-Rocchi
Head of School