

Principal:
Lesley Welsh



12 December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

As we approach the end of term, I wanted to update you on some final details for Christmas events as well as an update on our behaviour procedures.

I hope by now you are aware of the Christmas events we are holding in school this week. Our Year 7s have been busy preparing for tonight's Christmas Fair which takes place from 3pm in the main hall at school - we hope you are able to join us to enjoy the Christmas games and fun they have organised and buy some handmade gifts. All funds earned will go towards students' chosen charities and students will earn their next stamp on their PINDAR Pledge by participating. Christmas dinner is available today and tomorrow for those students who wish to enjoy this annual treat. On Tuesday at 6.30pm we host our first Carols by Candlelight concert at the Holy Nativity Church on Westway at 6.30pm. There are a small number of tickets still available from reception which include a tea/coffee and mince pie. We are looking forward to this very special event and look forward to seeing some of you there. Finally, we are holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day on Friday with funds being raised for Save the Children - students who wish to participate are asked to wear a Christmas jumper or a t-shirt / jumper decorated with tinsel or baubles and similar. Students who do not wish to wear a Christmas-themed top should wear school uniform as usual. We hope that students will then donate whatever they can for the charity and this can be given in a bucket at the gate or via our Just Giving page using the links on the school's Social Media pages. All week we are holding our Christmas rewards assemblies where we celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students with certificates and prizes and we are holding a rewards afternoon on Thursday for students with 99% or 100% attendance which is a significant achievement. Details of this term's exciting events will be shared in our newsletter the Pindar Press which will be sent out at the end of the week. We break up at 3pm for the Christmas break and students return to school on **Tuesday 3 January at 8.35am**.

I would like to thank those families who have shared feedback about the cancellation of the 366S bus service. We are in discussions with several local providers trying to source an alternative solution for this service. It would help us a great deal to have the most accurate information about how many children wish to use this type of service to pay to get to school so please contact news@gps.hslt.academy if your child uses, or wishes to use, this bus.

Cont'd ...

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As you are aware, our Ofsted report was published last week and we are pleased that the improvements we have made have been recognised. As we continue our journey of improvement, we have reflected on the behaviour protocols and procedures we have in place. The vast majority of our students do the right thing day in, day out and I would like to thank them and you for their support in creating a learning environment where they can thrive. We have noticed a slight decline in uniform standards over the last few weeks and I would like to remind all families that students are expected to wear their full uniform which includes slipover, blazer and shoes on a daily basis. If there is a reason why your child is missing an item of uniform, please communicate this with us via the school planner or contact your child's form tutor. Spare uniform can be borrowed every morning next to the attendance office and should be returned at the end of the day for cleaning. A uniform stall will also be available at tonight's Christmas Fair. Students must bring their planner to school every day and replacements are £5.

Our behaviour procedures will continue to see codes issued using Edulink which means you are able to monitor your child's behaviour using the app. I do appreciate the feedback regarding additional comments on the app to better explain the behaviour codes given and we are continuing to tweak the systems in place. Students who are removed from lessons are expected to complete 30, 45 or 60 minute detentions on the next school day where they reflect on their behaviour in the hope that they will not make the same mistake again. Please support the school by ensuring your child attends detentions when set. Students who persistently receive codes and are removed from lessons are placed on a range of behaviour reports which are to be signed by a parent or carer every evening; please help us work together to improve your child's behaviour if they are placed on report. We have a small group of students who sometimes truant from lessons which poses a safeguarding and academic risk. Students who refuse to attend their timetabled lesson will be placed in the A2S room (Alternative to Suspension) and complete a one-hour detention on the next school day. Please remind your child to attend all timetabled lessons and if there is a particular concern about a lesson, contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. We know that students succeed when home and school work together to give consistent messages about behaviour and progress so your support is appreciated. If you have any queries about any aspect of the behaviour policy, please contact your child's form tutor who can respond to or follow up on your query.

I would like to thank all members of the George Pindar School community for their support over the last term. We are looking forward to a week celebrating the significant achievements of our young people and after a well-deserved break resetting our behaviour expectations to help our children continue to thrive. I wish you and your families an enjoyable Christmas and happy new year.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal