



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

Dear Parent

Following on from my letter yesterday I confirm that the last day for pupils will be Thursday 17th December with pupils leaving at their normal staggered finish times except Years 12 and 13 who will finish at lunchtime. I can confirm that the Christmas Festivals will continue as planned and that the activities planned for the Friday morning will take place on the Thursday afternoon. I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Toy Appeal, it was heart-warming to see people's generosity in this most difficult of years.

Change to Bubbles/Venues after Christmas holidays

When we first allocated the 'bubbles' we needed to give Year 11 access to the science and ICT labs as preparation for the exams was the priority. Now that required practicals has been dropped from the GCSEs it is important that Year 10 get their allocation of laboratory time as they will be examined on the required practicals. The other important factor in our planning is to have Year 11 close to the examination hall ready for the Summer so the following changes have been made:

Sixth Form – no change

Year 11 - change from upper D block to Upper B block with their new venue being the large atrium

Year 10 - change from bottom of B block to top of D block with their new venue being the small atrium

Year 9 - no change although they will change their venue to the Old Sports Hall

Year 8 – no change although their venue will change back to the New Sports Hall

Year 7 – change from upper B block to the bottom of B block with their new venue being the Drama Theatre.

The outside venues will also change and all these changes will be explained to pupils in an additional PSHE lesson in their first session on Monday 4th January. New signs will go up and staff will be present to ensure pupils go to the right venue when the pupils return after Christmas. The arrival times will again change around to allow groups which have had a reduced tutor time to gain more of this time. With the new venues we can have 2 groups arriving at the same time either entering the school and going left to the Old Sports hall, New Sports Hall or Large Atrium or right to the Drama Theatre or Small Atrium. There is no change to the end of day timings but the new arrival times are:

Year 10 – arrive 8.20am for 8.30am start

Year 11 and Year 9 arrive 8.30am for 8.40am start

Year 7 and Year 8 arrive 8.40am for 8.50am start

Sixth Form – no change



Executive Principal: Mr C Zimmerman
Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

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The government last week released the following guidance about the Summer Examinations:
'Grading exams to ensure fairness

The qualifications regulator, Ofqual, worked with the Department for Education (DfE) and stakeholders from across the sector to determine the approach to grading for 2021. In recognition of the challenges this cohort faced and is facing, Ofqual has decided that grading will carry forward the overall generosity of 2020, to ensure the 2021 cohort are treated fairly, relative to their 2020 peers.

Given there were unintended differences across subjects in summer 2020, Ofqual will aim to spread the generosity of 2020 results between subjects more evenly, so that students are not disadvantaged because of their choice of subjects.

Adapting exams to take account of the disruption

We recognise the disruption which many students are experiencing due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Ofqual is working with awarding organisations to provide details of the additional support to be provided in this exceptional year for A level and GCSE exams at the end of January 2021.

Students will be supported through providing advance notice of some of the topic areas that will be covered in exams. Additionally, in some subjects, supporting materials, such as formula sheets, will be provided on the day of the exams. This will allow students to focus on depth of understanding in these areas and target their revision in the run up to exams.

For vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs), Ofqual has been working with awarding organisations throughout the year to agree a number of adaptations to these qualifications to take account of disruption, which are currently being implemented. For VTQs on performance tables, awarding organisations will also be able to reduce the number of optional units that are assessed. This will free up time to focus on teaching students all the knowledge and skills they need to progress to the next stage of their lives.'

We will obviously be keen to see what the details of this extra support will be so we can adapt the curriculum to ensure that we give pupils whatever support we can to maximise their potential for reaching and exceeding their targets.

We are also keen to prepare Year 11 for the next chapter in their education so we have rescheduled their postponed 'Step Up Day' to **Monday 14th December**. Year 11 do not need to come in uniform on this day and Years 12 and 13 will have a reading day. I would like to remind parents and pupils that **tomorrow** is the closing date for 6th form applications for September 2021. Application forms can be found on the website or by emailing Mr Russell, RussellO@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk or Mrs Grey, GreyJ@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk.



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Year 11 mock results day is on **Wednesday 16th December** with Year 11 parents evening later that day so please make your appointments to speak virtually to staff on Schoolcloud.

Breakfast

We have re-introduced our breakfast service which is available every day, pre-order only. Any child in receipt of a Free School Meal can receive a free breakfast.

Kind regards
Mr Pearson
Principal



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