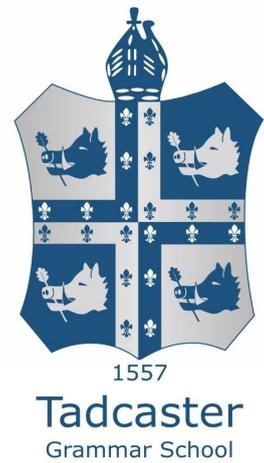


Be your best self



Thursday 10th December 2020



Dear Parents, Carers (& Students),

I hope this finds you well?

On Tuesday 8th December 2020 schools were notified by the *Department for Education* in an unexpected communication that they could consider moving around staff training time in order to take a training day on Friday 18th December 2020 and swap it with one later in the academic year. I'm sure you will have seen this in the media. Please can I make you aware of the following message from Ian Yapp, STAR MAT CEO.

Having considered this matter fully as a Trust, we have decided to leave our term-dates in place as previously circulated. All of our Trust schools will therefore remain fully open on Friday 18th December 2020 as originally planned (please do check individual timings and arrangements with your child's school^). We have also aligned this, wherever possible, with local non-Trust schools. Whilst the principle of allowing for some staff training time, or in the words of the DfE 'to ensure that staff get the time off they need and deserve' might be sound, there is simply not enough notice time to re-arrange staff training and for parents we feel the notice period for school closure is unacceptable.

Many of our schools also have an exciting and creative calendar of events planned throughout next week, with every single pupil day in school right now counting, whether that be for educational progress or for pastoral wellbeing after those long weeks and months in lockdown. This was of course a challenging decision to make on balance, but one we hope that our Trust community respects we have made with the right intentions.

As mentioned in my update last week, next week in school will look like this:

Monday 14th	Senior Awards Virtual Event** (link will be on the website)
Tuesday 15th	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 15th	Non-Uniform Day (Christmas Jumper - not compulsory!)
Wednesday 16th 7.00pm	NEW Virtual Christmas Concert (link will be on the website)
Thursday 17th	Year 11 - Sixth Form Study Experience Day
Friday 18th	End of Term – ^ early close at 1.30pm
(Start of the Spring term	Monday 4th January 2021. Please note this is not a staff training day.)



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**** Senior Awards**

We are disappointed not to be able to hold Senior Awards this year. In terms of issuing certificates (as we need to be able to distribute these carefully and even posting them out runs some risks), we are planning to hold a series of socially distanced certificate collection events once we can have more people safely in school. These are likely to be after March 2021.

Regards,

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher