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THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

**THOMAS ADAMS SIXTH FORM
ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)**

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Jenni Whitfield BA (Joint Hons), Tom McAleavy BA (Hons)



Dear Parents/Carers

As we fast approach the festive season, I would like to share the arrangements for the last day of term. Friday 17th December will be a 'Christmas Jumper Day' and pupils will be asked to donate £1 which will go towards two worthy causes; Save the Children charity and the Whitchurch foodbank. Donations can be made on Parent Pay.

School will finish at 1.10pm and buses will depart at 1.20pm.

Music Variety Concert / Carol Service

The Music Variety Concert and Carol Service will now be virtual and will be posted on the schools' online platforms by the end of the week beginning 13th December. These events feature our already established ensembles: The Orchestra, Adjazz, Advocals, the Chamber Choir and our new ensembles for this year: The Ukulele Group and the very new String ensemble, alongside our amazing soloists. Parents / Carers will be notified once they have been released.

Final day

The final day will be a half-day with students in normal lessons periods 1 and 2 before having Christmas form time with virtual assemblies. Break and lunchtimes will be as normal.

Returning to School in the new year

Due to the government's expectation that schools LFT test students on their return to school, we have no option but to have a staggered start in January. On **Tuesday** 4th January, **Years 10, 11, 12 and 13** will be in school for their tests. The start time for each year group will be staggered, **students** who catch the **bus** and are in **Sixth form** will be in for their normal 8:40 start. **Year 11** students who catch other means of transport or walk will be expected to be in school for **10:45** and **Year 10** at **13:10**. Once students have tested, lessons will begin as soon as possible. Years 7, 8 and 9 will be set lessons on Teams.

On Wednesday 5th January, Years 7, 8 and 9 will be in school to be tested. As with the Tuesday, start times will be staggered with students who catch the **bus** and will be in for their normal **8:40** start. **Year 7** students who catch other means of transport or walk will be expected to be in school for **10:00**, **Year 8** at **11:00** and finally **Year 9** at **13:10**. The examination groups that attended previously on Tuesday, will be expected to stay at home and complete Teams assignments.

Consent will be taken from previous testing procedures, should you wish to change this, please contact the school at enquiries@thomasadams.net. If your child has had Covid-19 within the last 90 days or you/they do not wish to be tested, they will need to attend at their designated time to ensure supervision. We would ask you to allow students to bring mobile phones into school to help with the testing registration process, and to ensure they know their address and your contact details such as mobile phone number and email address. We



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apologise for any inconvenience these arrangements will bring. School will be expected to re-open fully on Thursday 6th January.

After our return from the Christmas Holidays, when students are not on site due to testing plans, staff will be setting work using the assignments tool on Microsoft teams. These assignments will be independent learning tasks that students should complete to help support their learning upon their return to face-to-face lessons.

The curriculum organisation section of the website has been updated (see the link <https://thomasadams.net/curriculum-organisation/>). It includes an interactive overview of our curriculum that provides an insight into the content being taught to Thomas Adams students. This is an ever-evolving area of the website, and we will keep you informed when more information is posted.

Upcoming Events and Assessments

Year 11 Mock Results will be distributed on Thursday 16th December during period 4 and 5 in the Stanier Hall. All students will have the opportunity to discuss their results with a member of the senior leadership team for guidance and support. There will also be a remote Year 11 consultation evening on 19th January 4.30pm - 7.30pm on school cloud, where you can discuss these results with your child's class teacher. The evening will be open for booking appointments from Wednesday 15th December using the following link:

<https://thomasadams.schoolcloud.co.uk/>.

All Year 13 students will have mock exams after Christmas (week beginning 10th January). The timetable will be collapsed during this exam period. However, students are welcome to use the Study Hub for revision and consolidation, which is open every day from 8am-5pm. As stated in a previous letter regarding the latest approaches to assessments for the current Year 13 (<https://thomasadams.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Year-11-13-Exams-Update.pdf>), if summer examinations are cancelled these mocks will form part of the evidence base used to determine grades.

Please refer to Julie Squire's letters to Year 12 and 13 for more specific details regarding the 6th form.

Years 7 – 10 have recently begun their mid-year core assessments. These will be taking place in classrooms over the first 5 weeks back after the Christmas break as calendared. These will be reported back in the next round of parental reports and will allow us to get a picture of progress for all students in their subjects.

Year 9 options evening will be taking place week commencing 31st January, further details regarding the GCSE choices will be sent out in the new year. Our goal is for students to be well informed about their choices allowing them to make the most appropriate decisions about their future.

Finally, I would personally like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Mark Cooper
Headteacher