

Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus/Covid-19 update

Please see the attached Covid-19 Christmas information sheet, which outlines procedures if your child develops symptoms, or tests positive for Covid-19 between Friday 18 December and Thursday 24 December.

I believe that Beacon has provided a Covid-safe environment, with no reported cases as a result of internal exposure at Beacon. In the full term only 3 bubbles closed and no student had to self-isolate for more than one 14 day period. I understand the cases at Beacon were comparatively low compared with other schools and our adjustments have enabled all students to follow their normal timetabled lessons.

Those students forced to self-isolate benefitted from their normal lessons being delivered online by their usual teachers within 24 hours.

End of term arrangements

Beacon Academy will close for the Christmas break on *Friday 18 December at the usual time(s) of 2:45pm for Y7 & Y8 students and 2:50pm for Y9, Y10 and Y11 students.* Please note that Friday 18 December is a non-uniform day, no donation is required.

Whilst our usual end of term events such as the disco, Christmas dinner and trips to the Parkway Cinema for the newly released Christmas films, cannot take place this year, we are providing the students with a Christmas cinema experience within their 'bubbles' on Friday 18 December and there is a special 'Christmas week' in Café 5000 which is serving Christmas themed food from Monday 14 December.

I very much hope that we will be able to resume our pre-Covid reward trips and experiences at the end of the spring and summer terms. Reward assemblies will take place on Thursday 17 & Friday 18 December.

Spring Term dates

Date	Event
Friday 18 December 2020	Academy closes for Christmas at 2:45/2:50pm Cinema experience Reward assemblies Non-Uniform day
Monday 4 January 2021*	Academy re-opens to all students for the spring term
Thursday 11 February 2021	Academy closes for half-term
Friday 12 February 2021	Staff Training Day
Monday 22 February 2021	Academy re-opens to all students
Thursday 1 April 2021	Academy closes for Easter break

***Please note that Monday 4 January 2021 is not a training day and the academy re-opens to all students**

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Christmas Jumper Day

A huge thank you to all the parents for supporting this annual event. Nearly £350 was raised for charity.

Reports home

Please note that all teachers are currently inserting your child's autumn term progress grades, following end of term assessments. These grades will inform reports to be sent home to parents in January. I hope to be able to resume normal parents' evenings during the spring/summer terms.

We are committed to 'catching-up' the time lost due to the national lockdown. Maximum class sizes have been maintained at 25 and in many classes, lower. In key stage 4 (Years 10+11) we have over-staffed and created extra classes in English, maths and science to ensure maximum class sizes of 20. I will continue this strategy for the key stage 3 classes (Years 7-9) as they move into key stage 4.

Year 6 Update

I have been informed that Beacon Academy is the most over-subscribed secondary school in North East Lincolnshire, based on Year 6 preferences for 2021/2022. In total, we have received over 300 preferences for our 120 places. We have been told we will have a long waiting list for entry into Year 7 next year.

Site update

We have continued to work with the Wellspring trust to invest in our school buildings, in addition to the projects below, a further £240,000 is being invested into our site in the summer term.

- The £350,000 development of our Science Tower has been completed and the students are now benefitting from the modern state-of-the-art facilities within their science lessons.
- Between Christmas and February half-term, £75,000 is being invested into our sports hall as we upgrade the roof and flooring. When completed (February half-term, weather permitting), this will provide a significantly enhanced learning space for all our students.
- New professional football goals (parents who drive past the academy may have noticed these)
- Brand new outdoor seating/benches.

Extra-curricular clubs

Whilst the pandemic has had a significant effect on schools running extra-curricular activities, with sports fixtures particularly affected, the academy is running a socially distanced homework club (Mrs Pickles) every Wednesday (2:50pm – 4:00pm) and ECO Club (Miss Wilson) every Thursday (2:50pm to 4:00pm).

I would like to thank all our parents for all your support this term and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and very best wishes for 2021.

Stay safe.

 *Lighten, Inspire, Innovate*

Mr J Thurley
Headteacher