



17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you are well. As ever, at the end of term I thought that it would be helpful to update you on what is happening in school:

- 1. Your children.** Once again, your children have been a credit to you this term. They have responded well to every new challenge they have faced and throughout have continued to do their very best in lessons. Each and every one of them has faced significant challenges as a result of the disruption in the last two years. However, across the school, we are seeing the vast majority of students showing fantastic resilience as they quickly return to the routines of learning and school. Please pass on my thanks to them. They deserve a rest this Christmas.
- 2. Online sexual harassment. Keeping children safe.** The Children's Commissioner is today launching a [guide for parents and carers on online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online](#). "The things I wish my parents had known" draws together advice from 16 to 21 year olds on how parents should manage tricky conversations around sexual harassment and access to inappropriate content, including pornography. I do hope you find this guide useful and helpful.
- 3. Leisure Centre.** I am delighted to tell you that we are making good progress with negotiations with Liberty Leisure Limited and can look forward to our students being able to make better use of the buildings and facilities during the school day. We have worked well with Liberty Leisure Limited and I am hopeful that we are working towards a compromise that will be to the benefit of our community and our students. Those of you who are interested can read a joint statement [on our website](#)
- 4. Attendance.** School attendance is now a national priority. Attendance at Secondary Schools across the country has dropped to below 90%, which is significantly lower than in normal times. We know that good attendance is the key to success for every child and so at Kimberley, we have found some additional resources to fund a full-time Attendance Officer who we are hoping will be able to start with us as soon as possible after Christmas. This post could suit someone living in the community who is looking to work locally and wants to make a difference to our students. It may well be that you or someone you know is interested in this post. If this is the case, then I have attached the application pack to this email.
- 5. Lateral Flow Testing Day – Jan 4th 2022.** This week we wrote to you setting out the arrangements for this day and also how you could give consent for your child to participate in this. You can access this letter on the [parent notices page of our website](#). Please do consider giving your child consent to participate in this testing if you have not already done so. Large numbers of students participating in this will help keep school safe after the Christmas break and will be reassuring to the whole school community.

- 6. Covid Control Measures.** You will know that this year we have gone further than government guidance by requiring students to sit side by side and facing the front in the majority of lessons; and by requiring students to wear face coverings in classrooms in the last few weeks. Given the national context, these cautious decisions do seem to have been sensible. I do hope you will understand that at this stage I do not know what the national situation we will return to in January but please do be reassured that if there are any changes then I will be in touch with you before school returns.
- 7. Musician-in-Residence.** Our Musician in Residence, Jodi Calder is leaving us at the end of the term and will be moving on to exciting new opportunities. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Jodie for the work that she has done and the opportunities she has created for so many of our students to learn an instrument and to perform in front of audiences. Unfortunately, Jodi's departure does mean that there will be a gap in our provision and that many of the extra-curricular activities she led on will be paused until we can make alternative arrangements. Whilst this may not happen quickly please do be reassured that it is our aim to get these activities up and running as soon as possible.

Finally, I cannot pretend to you that this has been an easy term. However, your support throughout this has been fully appreciated. Staff are exhausted after one of the most intense periods of time in their career. If you do have a few minutes to drop us an email and pass on any positive feedback to staff generally or individually then please do so. If you send these to office@kimberleyschool.co.uk then I will make sure that these are passed onto staff – I cannot tell you how much they appreciate your positive feedback.

I do hope that you find some way to relax with family and friends, whatever your Christmas looks like. Take care

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A George', written in a cursive style.

Andrew George
Head Teacher