

IDSALL SCHOOL

www.idsallschool.org



Parent and Carer Newsletter

13th December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we come to the end of the term, we write to keep you up to date with what is happening at Idsall. Firstly, congratulations to all our students for their resilience, hard work and getting through this difficult year so far; another year where we continue to see some disruption from Covid-19 as we try to get back to some sort of normal.

Our improvements across the school are continuing to take shape, and the main hall and extension to the dining hall should be completed by the time students come back in January. We are now excited to announce that we are working on the next projects after the Christmas break which will see improvements to the sixth form centre and the library.

Last day arrangements

We will be closing early on the last day of term, which is **Friday, 17th December**.

We will finish at **2pm** and school buses will collect students from school at this time. Lunch will be available before that from the canteen as normal.

Here is the plan:

Registration	8.50am to 9.00am
Period 1	9.00am to 10.05am
Period 2	10.05am to 11.10am
Break	11.10am to 11.30am
Period 3	11.30am to 12.35pm
Period 4a (lunch KS3)	12.35pm to 1.10pm
Period 4b (lunch KS4)	1.10pm to 1.40pm
Assembly and tutor time	1.40pm to 2.00pm
School day ends	2.00pm

Non-uniform day – it is a non-uniform day on the last day to benefit MHA Live at Home, a local charity based in Shifnal and a national appeal www.helpjoseph.co.uk. In return for not wearing uniform to school, students will be asked to pay a minimum of £1 donation – payable in cash at school on the day.

We will expect all students to be sensible in their choice of clothing and footwear, dress in a way that is appropriate for the day's lessons and which will not cause offence or endanger themselves or others at school. Unconventional hairstyles and body adornments that might be acceptable on a social occasion, but that are inappropriate for school will not be acceptable. PE kit will be worn as usual for PE lessons.

Free school meals

We have had confirmation that the National Free School Meal Voucher Scheme will extend, for those families who qualify for free school meals, to cover the Christmas holiday. Families will receive one voucher of £30 per student. This will be sent direct by email on 17th December 2021 from Edenred, as previously. The email will contain information on how you can redeem your E code by going to www.freeschoolmeals.co.uk to choose your retailer and downloading the voucher.

If you do not receive your voucher, please check your spam folder. If you have any further problems, please contact finance@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk for assistance.

Transport

Late buses – please note that the late buses will not be running during the week 13th to 17th December, nor the first week back, 5th to 7th January. They will start back again from 10th January 2022.

AT Brown coaches – there are some important changes to the AT Brown coach service which will take effect from January. You should have received a letter about this but if you have not received this and your child travels on the AT Brown coaches, please contact info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk and we can send this out to you.

School uniform

A reminder about the requirements for uniform is on this link on our website:

[Idsall school uniform](#)

Now it is winter, please note that outdoor coats or jackets should be a plain colour without bold words or logos and with a front fastening. We do not allow pullover tops, 'hoodies' or cardigans; they may be confiscated during the school day. Scarves are for outdoor wear only and not to be worn inside the school building.

Covid testing

Further to government guidance, students will be encouraged to have one Covid test in school on the first day back in school on 5th January. We will only test those students for whom we have parent/carer consent from the forms you have returned to us earlier this year. If you wish to withdraw consent for your child to be tested in school, please can you email info@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk as soon as possible with a subject heading of 'Withdraw consent' to let us know. After this first test, home test kits will be given out. As per the guidance, we encourage the use of lateral flow tests over the festive period.

Face coverings

All students (unless exempted) will be expected to wear a face covering/mask when they return in January. This can be removed in lessons when sitting in their allocated seat, taken from the seating plan. Masks will also need to be worn on school coach service throughout the journey (unless the student is exempted).

Please ensure your child has a face covering for school.

School day consultation

Our school day consultation period finished on 10th December. Thank you to all those who sent in their comments and views on this.

As stated, the decision will consider the views from the consultation, alongside the main aims of the ensuring the best educational experience for all students and enabling the school to offer the very best learning for all subjects, as well as meeting the statutory requirement of a minimum of 25 hours of learning per week for all students.

We will let everyone know the outcome in January 2022 and any changes will come into force from September 2022.

Year 11 students

Just a reminder that if you wish to apply for Idsall Sixth Form, you can do so on this weblink:

[Sixth Form – Idsall School](#)

The deadline for applications is **31st January 2022**. As choosing a post-16 programme of study is a big decision, it is important that you seek good guidance and advice so that you can make the right choices. If you need advice from us, please contact the sixth form team as follows:

Head of Sixth Form	Miss L Smith	01952 468400	ismith@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk
Deputy Head of Sixth Form	Mrs V McMahon	01952 468400	vmcmahon@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk
Sixth Form Attendance and Admin Officer	Mrs A Case	01952 468400	acase@idsall.shropshire.sch.uk

Year 13 students

UCAS – congratulations to all those students who have sent off their UCAS forms – many have already received all five offers as well, which is a wonderful achievement.

A reminder that we would like to send as many forms as possible before Christmas – as you know from our previous letters, we had hoped to have sent almost all by the start of December. If they have not done so, please encourage your child to complete all sections of the online form as well as a personal statement. The process does involve quite a number of checks from our end as well (as all students know) so it is of paramount importance that they complete their sections in good time. All students have been given many opportunities to see Miss Smith and their tutors since September to help them with this process.

After Christmas, sixth form team will go through the process of accepting courses and how to apply for student finance – we are hoping to communicate this with you all as well, but this is to be confirmed. ID sessions will also have a focus on real-life skills in order to ensure students are well-prepared for life beyond school.

Apprenticeships – students interested in apprenticeships have had various sessions to show them how and where to search. Sixth form team are also sharing weekly updates from our external careers advisor via email or in tutor groups, as well as the government listings. All students have also been told to complete a CV (Unifrog has a tool to help with this). Competition this year for Apprenticeships is likely to be even tougher and the process can be a lengthy one, so the sooner students apply for places, the better. The release of positions can be found on this website and it is useful to check this regularly: [Higher-Degree-Listing-2021.pdf \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](#)

As usual, we would suggest applying for University as well just in case!

Mock and BTEC examinations – these will run from the second week of January. Teachers will inform students which exams will be covered. BTEC courses have real examinations in January – students have been preparing for them this term.

Whilst we encourage the students to have a break over Christmas, it is also important that they plan their time and revision to ensure they are able to give their best to these next assessments. A revision timetable is the best way to take pressure off and to build in those all-important rest days where students can switch off and recharge their batteries.

Finally

We look forward to welcoming all students back on **5th January 2022**.

Many thanks for your continued, supportive cooperation. I am sure you will join me in thanking all the staff for their hard work during this term. Students have worked well with us to ensure learning is back in place and we are preparing for the coming examinations. Keep safe and well over the festive period.

Have a lovely Christmas.



Ms M King

Headteacher