



10th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Principals' December Update.

It is December already and with less than two weeks of term remaining, we would like to share details of our plans for the end of term.

Normal Curriculum until the End of Term

Lessons will continue as normal until the close of College at 2.30pm on Friday 20th December. Year 11 students are sitting their mock exams in the final two weeks of term.

Christmas Treat Day – Attendance Rewards

As you are aware, student attendance is our key priority at Minsthorpe Community College following our Ofsted Inspection last year. You have heard our key message of 'every student, every lesson, every day' on numerous occasions. Your child needs to be in College until 2:30pm on Friday 20th December to be successful in their learning and to enjoy being with their friends.

We are pleased to let you know that **our overall attendance has increased by an impressive 1.2%** when compared with the Autumn Term last year. We want to celebrate the collective efforts of students, parents/carers, and staff in making this pleasing improvement by recognising good attendance with a Christmas Treat Day for each year group next week.

On the Christmas Treat Day, we will be awarding:

- A £10 voucher to five students with 100% attendance
- A Christmas hamper to five students with improved attendance
- A Christmas treat at Snack Break for everyone in College on their Christmas Treat Day

Collection for Local Food Bank Underway – Reverse Advent Calendar

Following the success of previous years, the College is collecting a range of non-perishable items for the Westfield Centre Food Bank in South Elmsall. Collection boxes are in the Main Reception for students to drop off their contributions to the collection each morning. This is voluntary collection for any family that feels they are able to do so - your generosity is always gratefully appreciated by the Food Bank.

Christmas Holiday Dates

We will finish for Christmas at our usual finish times on Friday 20th December:

Years 7 & 8: 2:25pm

Years 9, 10, 11 and Post 16: 2:30pm

There will be no after College activities on this date.

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Principals Mark Gilmore & Rachael Merritt



The Spring Term will start for all year groups at the normal time of 8:25am on Monday 6th January 2025.

Change to the Entrance Gate for Year 10 from January 2025

Due to the construction work at the bottom of site, the entrance gate for Year 10 will be in front of the new Sports Centre from January 2025.

Construction Work Update

The newly built Sports Centre will open for student use in January, and we are excited by the increased opportunities and fantastic facilities this will give the young people in their PE lessons and also during after-college enrichment activities. It has certainly been worth the wait! In addition, the refurbishment of the Humanities Block and the Main Hall will be completed next week, which means that the temporary block can be removed after Christmas. We are relieved that there will be no more trekking across the Astroturf to get to lessons!

Looking ahead, the Old Sports Hall will soon be demolished, and a new multi-use games area (MUGA) will be installed. We are looking forward to the summer term when we will have the whole site back for student use.

Enrichment Programme - January 2025

Our brand-new Enrichment Programme will be available after the Christmas break. A number of old favourites return, such as trampolining, fitness, gaming, chess, gymnastics and dance, alongside brand-new clubs like Geography country club, crime solving, crafting and CAD club. The new programme will be launched before we break up for Christmas and will be available to book via School Gateway. We look forward to seeing lots of our students making the most of these exciting opportunities.

Final Word

It is a privilege to be Principals of Minsthorpe Community College and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support for your child's education throughout 2024.

We wish you an enjoyable Christmas with your loved ones.

Yours sincerely

Mr M. Gilmore
Principal

Mrs R. Merritt
Principal

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