

*Educate for life*

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you as we approach the Christmas break.

I would firstly like to start by saying just how grateful we have been for the overwhelming support and the outpouring of love and community togetherness that there has been since we informed you of the incredibly sad news about Tayla at the start of this week.

I know it means a great deal to Tayla's family and friends, as well as the school, and it personally makes me feel very proud to be part of such a strong school community, which will always remember and celebrate Tayla's life.

As you can imagine and will no doubt be aware, it has been an incredibly difficult week for everyone in school. Alongside having counsellors on site to support students and staff who have needed it, and providing various enhanced training updates and information resources to help our students manage their bereavement, we have also started a memorial book for Tayla. All students and staff will have the opportunity to leave tributes within the book, which will then be shared with Tayla's family. I am sure this will bring them great comfort, as so many of your kind words, thoughts and offers of support already have.

As we now look ahead to the end of this term, I wanted to let you know that we have reviewed our end-of-term plans. Looking at the situation and the emotional toll the events of this week have taken on the school community we have had to make the decision that our **last day will instead be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December closed to students at 2.45pm, rather than Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December**, as we had previously stated. The remaining days will be used as for staff training.

As we have our Christmas lunch taking place on the 17<sup>th</sup> for those who have pre-booked, as well as Christmas Jumper Day for everyone who wants to participate, finishing on the Friday is more of a natural end to term following such festivities. Additionally, this will bring us closer in line with the regional (Hampshire) and national term dates.

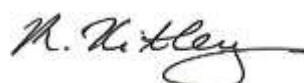
As such, we have arranged transport for the end of the school day at 2.45pm on Friday as usual.

I appreciate that this is shorter notice than usual for date alterations, and may cause some inconvenience with childcare arrangements, which we apologise for. However, I do hope it will mean that students can enjoy their final week of term culminating in Friday's events, and that everyone can have the restful break they deserve, particularly after this term.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation, at what has been an incredibly dark week for our school community. However, the support and togetherness that everyone has shown has brought a real sense of light, and I hope you have felt that too.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our very best to support you.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Kitley, Principal  
Cowes Enterprise College