



Ref: AG/MLN

December 2020.

Dear Parent / Carer,

COVID 19 Management

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Thank you for your support over what seems to have been a very long term indeed since the whole scale return to school after the summer break. Maybe this is caused by the additional pressure of us all collectively managing 'our children's' education during a national pandemic; I think we, like you must be, are looking forward to a break now.

The reason for writing to you so far ahead of the Christmas holidays is to ask you to consider that the actions we all take in the remaining days of this term may determine what sort of festivities we can all enjoy when the time comes. We need to get to the end of term, ideally, without any confirmed cases in school. This is really a case of repeating the 'hands-face-space and test, track and trace and isolate' advice we have used to this point, and to know whom we have been in **close contact** with should anyone have contracted the virus. As a reminder close contact is described as within 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer or within 1 metre for any length of time.

You will be aware there is good news about COVID in terms of the vaccination, and rates of infection transmission in Dorset are declining at the moment. The aim is to keep it this way! Since the end of Lockdown 2.0 last Wednesday, Dorset has been placed in Tier 2 which means that whilst we may have greater freedoms, there are still some limitations placed on us all of which we need to be aware. We will be able to enjoy a 5 day period 'easement of restrictions' from 23rd December and should act to minimise the consequences of this relaxation by observing the same advice as above whilst mixing with our single family bubble of up to three households.

The Government originally stated that all schools are to remain fully open in the run up to the end of term, for us that would have been 18th December. **Yesterday**, the DfE having consulted with Public Health England, advised schools could move an INSET day to the last day of this term to allow for a 6 day window between school closure for the Christmas break and the start of the 'easement of restrictions' for the Christmas period. This would mean the last day a child could have possibly contracted COVID 19 in school would be Thursday 17th December. Given the usual incubation period before symptoms display in children and adolescents is 5 days, families should be as sure as they can be, that they are safe to run their intended celebrations from the 23rd – 27th December, during the 'easement of restrictions' period.

I hope you would agree this seems a very sensible move and one that our governing body has supported. **In light of this, our last day of term for students will be Thursday 17th December.**

We can only apologise for the short notice and we will be sending home additional work for our Year 11 students to complete at home.

Schools have been asked to keep key members of staff available to support the government with Track and Trace until 23rd December. In this school our leadership and administration team will be undertaking this duty. If your child tests positive for COVID19 up to Wednesday 23rd December having developed

symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, i.e. up to and including Saturday 19th December please advise us by emailing the school email: office@compass.dorset.sch.uk. Likewise, if we receive notification of a positive test during this period we will notify you via parentmail.

Support for Free School Meals

The Government has requested Dorset Council offer additional support to families who need it who are entitled to free school meals. At the moment we are unsure of what this will look like and will follow up with additional communication as soon as we do. In the meantime Dorset Councils website offers sources of additional support and guidance on a whole range of matters including this one. It can be located on <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/home.aspx> for those of you who can access on line.

Year 11 Exams

After sitting a successful set of Functional Skills exams in November, our Year 11's have their Mock Exams when we return in January. For those who are parents of a Year 11 child, without putting unnecessary additional pressure on them, it may be worth considering some conversations around the additional significance of their Mock Exam performance for them, 'just in case'. Mock grades for last year's Year 11's were used as evidence in the Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) in lieu of their yearend examinations. From the guidance below you will see that at the moment the government state that all National Examinations will run this year.

Extra measures to boost fairness and support students ahead of next summer's exams and assessments

Today, the Secretary of State for Education announced that students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19). Building on the 3 week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- *more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged*
- *students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision*
- *exam aids, for example formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise*
- *additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation*
- *a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on students across the country*

The government will set out further detail on this process, and on adaptations to exams, in the new year. We have published [guidance to support the summer 2021 exams](#) and [accountabilities](#) to provide further clarity for schools, colleges, parents and pupils.

Charity Christmas Jumper Day

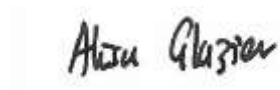
On Friday 12th December we will be raising money for the Save the Children charity by wearing Christmas Jumpers to school. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Leavers

Emma Harding is leaving at Christmas. We wish her all the best in her new role teaching in the Quay School

Finally, on behalf of the governors and staff at Compass may I wish you all Seasons Greetings, and hope that your celebrations are happy, fun filled and safe! We look forward to welcoming our students back on **Monday 4th January 2021.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Glazier', written in a cursive style.

**Alison Glazier,
Headteacher,
Compass Learning Centre.**