

December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we draw to the end of this busy first term of this academic year 2020-2021, may I begin by thanking you all for your support; this initial term of the academic year has been quite a challenge but we have continued to work in partnership with you to keep our students' focus on their learning.

Despite the circumstances, CRHS has still enjoyed a number of successes -

- CRHS colleagues were invited to attend a reception at the Governor's House to recognise our contributions to the community during the lockdown.
- Colleagues across the school worked hard organising various events to mark international celebrations such as World Mental Health Day, Anti-Bullying Week and International Day of Languages.
- We held a very successful Christmas Concert, filled with festive music and drama. Probably the only event of its kind in the British Isles!
- In conjunction with the DESC, we held an information evening for Year 5, 6 & 7 parents, designed to help them teach maths in a modern way.
- A team of science students took part in the Top of the Bench Competition, competing against the whole of the North West of England, and placing 7th. A commendable achievement!
- A recently-formed KS5 debate team has been competing weekly against KWC students, and has so far won every competition.
- The CRHS Choir sang in Castletown Square as part of their Christmas Lights switch-on event.
- A team of KS5 students took part in the Mock UN competition against other schools on the island. Each team is assigned a country by random, and CRHS became Team USA. Their hard work and well-thought out arguments paid off as they won the competition!

For those parents with students approaching exams in Years 11, 12 and 13 we have given you a specific update as part of the recent tracking that went home. Other parents may be interested to know that the approach to the summer exam season in 2021 is mixed, we know some of the plans, but the detail is evolving. Whether the ongoing effects of the COVID pandemic will affect our younger students, in terms of examination arrangements, remains to be seen. We will continue to update the relevant year groups as information becomes available.

This Friday, 18 December 2020, the school will close at the usual time of 3:45pm, with students spending the final lesson of the day with their tutors.

This Christmas, we bid farewell to Miss Katie Brown, our wonderful Subject Team Leader for RE, who is returning to her hometown of Liverpool. Miss Brown will be missed by staff and students alike. I am pleased to say we have managed to find a replacement with an experienced colleague, Jasmin Wilson.

Forthcoming key dates:

Tuesday 5 th January	9am	School opens for the spring term
Friday 29 th January	7pm	School Show – 'Night at the Musicals'
Friday 12 th February	3:45pm	School closes for half term
Monday 22 nd February	9am	School reopens
Friday 26 th March	3:45pm	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 12 th April	9am	School opens for the summer term

I also wanted make you aware of the planning we have been undertaking and, should worst come to the worst, how the school would respond in the event of a COVID outbreak in the community. Details of how you can support your child with remote learning can be found on the enclosed document.

We are currently consulting on an update to our school uniform; it would be useful to have some parental feedback via this link: <https://forms.gle/ToYTyQYBD73egqRaA> The survey closes on 11th January.

A number of parents expressed concerns when we changed the lunch rota for this term, for those of you who took the time to feedback, thank you. The two youngest year groups are by far the biggest and should not be leaving the site during the day so the rota will remain as is; Year 7 in first and Year 8 second. Now that this has become more embedded we will only be asking older students to hold off on visiting the canteen until 1:15pm in the New Year.

May I finally take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas holiday and that you and your families keep safe and healthy over this festive season. We look forward to another year of learning here at Castle Rushen in 2021.

Best wishes



Mr K Winstanley
Headteacher