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10 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

NOTICE OF COLLEGE CLOSURE FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER 2020

Today the Government have written to schools and colleges about end of term planning. Their letter contains the following:

"We know that school and further education leaders, teachers and staff, as well as nurseries and childminders, have worked tirelessly over the last term. This has included their important role in contact tracing, to help in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus. We are aware that this has led to additional work over weekends and holidays and we are incredibly grateful for this.

We recognise the challenges of this responsibility at the end of term. Public Health England has agreed a 6-day window after the final day of teaching in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test and for relevant contacts in the education setting to be traced. We are clear that beyond 6 days after the final day of teaching, school and further education staff are not asked to play a role in any contact tracing. It is also likely that the need to support the tracing process will reduce dramatically over the course of the 6 days as the majority of cases should be identified earlier in the week."

The letter goes on to highly recommend that schools and colleges take Friday 18th December 2020 as an INSET day for the purposes outlined above. It advises that teaching time must be made up later on in the year. However, in the case of Harrison College, we will continue to educate our students but remotely. Students will be issued work via email and will need to complete it during the day. Therefore, our last day of college will be **Thursday 17th December 2020** at the usual finish time.

Thank you for all your support in these challenging and changing times. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Gemma Peebles
Principal

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