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Principal: Mrs C Stanyer

10th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we fast approach the start of the Christmas holidays, I am writing to provide you with an update on our end of term arrangements, in light of COVID-19 guidance released this week by the Department for Education (DfE).

In line with the new guidance, we have taken the decision to implement an INSET day on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** and to close the academy for the Christmas break a day earlier than originally planned. **The last day of term will now be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, and the start of the Spring term will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. In order to gain the lesson time back, we have now cancelled the INSET day planned for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and all students will be expected to come to school on this day.**

The DfE has given schools the ability to make this decision in order to help avoid as much as possible the need for people to have to self-isolate over the holidays. We appreciate that this may cause some inconvenience for child care arrangements, but it is a decision that we have made with the health, safety and wellbeing of both our students and staff are the centre, and we thank you in advance for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation at this time.

These are of course very trying times for everyone, and there may be some apprehension about the possibility of a need for anyone to have to self-isolate over Christmas. With continuing high rates of positive cases in our local area it is a possibility that people may find they are alerted through contact tracing that they have had proximity contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and will therefore need to self-isolate. We now have 5 school days left before we break up for the Christmas holiday and **it is vital that students do continue to self-isolate where appropriate in the hope that we do not need to contact any of you in the Christmas holidays to inform you that you need to self-isolate.**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your incredible support during this very difficult term- this means a great deal to all the staff at Ormiston Meridian Academy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school reception on 377100.

From all the staff, please do keep safe and well over the holiday, have a fantastic Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Claire Stanyer  
Principal

*Ormiston Meridian Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

