



**Horizons Specialist Academy Trust**  
*Providing infinite opportunities*

**Chief Executive**

Elizabeth Horne CBE

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Dear Parent/Carer

The Government announced yesterday (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December) that all schools will be allowed to take an INSET day on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Although this announcement has arrived very late in the term, Horizons Specialist Academy Trust has acted quickly to agree that all of its academies will close to pupils on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Therefore, your child's last day at school this term will be **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**.

The aim of the Government's announcement is to reduce the risk of pupils and staff having to self-isolate over Christmas, and to minimise the need for schools to carry out contact tracing in the Christmas holidays. You might be aware that Principals have had a key role and responsibility in providing contact information to Public Health England (PHE) if there has been a positive case (pupils and/or staff) in school since September. This additional work has helped in the national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Closing our Academies to pupils a day earlier than originally scheduled still means that your child's Principal will continue to contact trace with Public Health England in the event of positive cases through to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Therefore, if the need arises, the Principal will let you know of the requirement to self-isolate over the Christmas period. These six days (from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December inclusive) will allow enough time for positive coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and for relevant contacts in the Academy to be traced.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school (i.e. after Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December), the school **should not be** contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Teaching time lost by closing the Academies next Friday will be made up at another point in the academic year. Your Principal will write again in the New Year with the details of how we will recover that time for your child.

The decision means that your child is able to spend more time with you and your family over the festive season.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact your child's tutor or Principal if you have any questions following this announcement.

Yours faithfully

Elizabeth Horne CBE  
Chief Executive



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