

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**DfE announcement yesterday – end of term**

Dear parents and carers'

You will probably be aware that schools can designate Friday next week as a training day so that students will not be in school that day. Whilst this is very late notice, it does mean that disruption to families' Christmas arrangements is less likely as a result of being required to self-isolate over the holiday period. Our school leaders are required to be available for six days after the last day of school to help with contact tracing.

Staff will be undertaking a programme of additional online and/or in-house training in lieu of Friday's directed time and our students' learning time will be made up during the course of the Spring term with additional online provision, where it will be most beneficial within the curriculum.

We would obviously not normally announce school closure with so little notice. However, we were advised of this change to national policy only yesterday afternoon. Our schools will adjust their plans for next week so that the end of what has been a very challenging term for everyone can be celebrated festively and safely on Thursday.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given to your schools and the many messages of appreciation of the hard work and commitment of both teaching and support staff who have done all in their power to provide the best possible conditions for learning, whilst also prioritising the safety and wellbeing of our school communities.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and festive Christmas to you and your families.

Kind regards



Mrs. CM. Brooker  
**CEO, Arété Learning Trust**

*"Being the best we can be by uniting schools,  
communities and families, to secure success  
for all young people"*

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