



Our Ref: CDY/Xmaslet/sf

12th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of term, it's good to reflect on some of the highlights. Our new Year 7 students have settled in well, they are a confident and enthusiastic year group and they have already made good progress since they joined us. We are pleased to have early indications from DCC that more families than ever before have applied for a place at Buxton Community School as their first choice for September 2018. At the other end of the scale, our Year 11 students are currently completing their mock GCSE exams. They are on track to be our most successful year group ever and this is a crucial step in their preparation for those all-important end of year examinations.

There have been major improvements across the school in terms of attendance and punctuality too. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and encourage you to keep on making sure the students make it to school in plenty of time each day. I do have one request, if you are buying any new uniform over the break, I would ask that you make sure it meets the uniform code as we sometimes find that students will try and convince you that there has been a mid-year change to policy. I can confirm that our uniform policy has not changed and you can find the latest information on our new website.

It is almost three years since I joined the school and it has been a real privilege to watch it grow and develop over that time. I am genuinely excited to see our students achieve their potential and head towards an aspirational future. The academic success the students at the school have seen means a higher proportion than ever can access Further Education with our Sixth Form and consequently pursue Higher Education elsewhere. It is really pleasing to see students aiming for the very best and we have many of our Sixth Form interviewing for places with the highest performing universities. Applications for places in the Sixth Form for 2018 are high and still coming in and it is exciting times all round.

Our place in the community is very important to us and we host a range of events to maintain our strong links with the people of the town. We held our annual Remembrance Day service in school. It was a very moving occasion and we are very proud of our student's contribution. As the British Legion is no longer able to hold its own service on the 11th November, it is a real privilege to be able to provide this service for members of our wider community as well as our students. We are collecting again for our Christmas Hampers that support local people in need over the holiday period, so any contributions will be very welcome. We also held an extremely well attended music recital with many special performances. Students welcome the opportunity to put their talents on display and we are delighted to announce that there will be a whole school production next summer, more details will follow soon.

Buxton Community School

College Road

Buxton

Derbyshire

SK17 9EA

Headteacher: **Mr Craig Yates**
Bsc (Hons), NPQH



Finally, we are looking forward to our annual Presentation Evening on the 14th December at the Pavilion Gardens. I am looking forward to celebrating just how much our students have achieved this year and many of you will have been invited to see your children receiving their certificates and awards. We hope the weather will not be too much of a problem but we will let you know as soon as possible should it do so.

End of Term

I am also writing to share the arrangements for the end of term with you. Teaching time is a valuable resource and we will be delivering meaningful lessons all the way through to the end of term. Please make sure that your child attends every day as teachers will be covering important content in every subject. However, we haven't forgotten it is Christmas and we intend to celebrate with the students on the last Tuesday and to facilitate this there are slightly earlier finish times for students. They vary slightly by year so please check them carefully. Tuesday is also a Dress Your Best Day when we will be wearing Christmas jumpers in aid of Save the Children.

- Y11 students have worked very hard on their mock examinations and have their last one on the morning of the 19th. We will release Y11 from school at approximately 12pm after their exam and wish them a restful Christmas. Results of their mock examinations will be released on the 16th of January when we take them through the experience of a results day to help prepare them for summer 2018.
- All other year groups (Y7, 8, 9, 10, 12 & 13) will finish at 2pm on the 19th.
- The school buses will still operate at their normal scheduled time, so any students who need to wait until 3.20pm to get their bus will be looked after by staff in the Gothic Hall until the normal finish time.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Craig Yates
Headteacher