

Ernest Bevin College and Sixth Form Centre

A Specialist Sports, Mathematics & Computing College

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Principal: Tracy Dohel

16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed a busy last week of term and I was pleased that we were able to share our wonderful Winter Showcase online this week with everyone who had requested tickets. I hope that anyone who did watch it online was able to capture the fantastic atmosphere present on the day. We would like to thank FEBS for organising our Jolly Jumper Day, which, along with the festive lunch, was a great success with many students and staff taking part. We also had some fun activities over the last two weeks of term: dodgeball and football, organised by the sixth form student leadership team and send our thanks to them. FEBS and our student leadership team teamed up to support the Tooting Community Kitchen and we are incredibly grateful to them and to everyone who took part; we had over 300 items to donate!

Lateral Flow Devices

I appreciate the efforts of all of our families with current Covid guidelines and should like to thank you all for helping us maintain a safe environment. We have been asked to strongly encourage students and their families **to take lateral flow tests twice weekly** over the holiday period and immediately before they return to the College site. With this in mind, we will be offering testing kits to students on Friday; please do ask your child to bring kits home with them and if they require additional kits for family members, they can request these from us as we have sufficient supply. All staff are also encouraged to test in the same way and have been taking the testing kits home this week.

Close Contacts

The Government advised that from Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 would be introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated as well as children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days **instead of self-isolating**. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Going Abroad

We request that families ensure all students are ready to return to college for their first day. Please ensure you keep abreast of all the rules relating to quarantine and testing on the return to England. We understand that such rules may change whilst you are abroad. Please be advised that we are unable to authorise absence if families did not consider rules that were in place at the point of going abroad.

End of Term Arrangements

We will be offering one extended break on Friday 17th December from 11.05-11.30am for students to enjoy a reduced lunch service. Students will be dismissed year by year from 11.45-11.55am via their usual exit.

I am really looking forward to welcoming everyone back in January; please do take note of the information in the letter I resent yesterday about the start of term and staggered arrival times.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Dohel
Principal