



# PitsfordSchool

14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Re: Happy New Year

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and I hope that you all had a good, safe and enjoyable break. As I type this letter I can see through my window that the top lawn is still white with frost, as if iced and dusted by some mad patisserie chef, and as I walked through the school this morning I paused to look at the swimming pool which was frozen over hiding who knows what secrets in its dark and cold depths. I am pleased to see some semblance of a real winter at last, following the balmy New Year that we have just had and a chill January may be good for the soul.

And so we enter the third calendar year of Coronavirus and continue to wrestle with advice from Government, scientists and enthusiastic amateurs on the internet, while the target moves constantly and clarity remains frustratingly out of reach. Today we had confirmed by the Department of Education that the announced changes to the isolation period are now policy (from Monday, people who are self-isolating may reduce the isolation period after five full days if they test negative with a LFT on both day five and day six and they do not have a temperature. However, please note, the first LFT must not be earlier than five days).

Also, in line with the Government's guidance, students in Senior School are expected to wear masks unless they are exempt and this includes on school transport.

The Government remains committed to examinations taking place in the summer (where have I heard that before?) and I believe that this year they will. Therefore, for students in Years 11 and 13, the weeks and months until summer is the time to leave no effort spared in their studies. Any updates or new news that I get, I will pass on *tout de suite* and who knows what might happen over the coming weeks in Westminster in the aftermath of the drama of the wine and the cheese and the cha cha cha?

Back to school and overall I think that we have had a fine first week and I am pleased to note that no students tested positive on their return on Tuesday and I think that this reflects very well on our community diligently testing twice weekly at home – we must continue in this vein. While in school children are being separated out as best we can manage without returning to the major disruption of bubbling and we will continue like this until we get the updated guidance from the Government at the end of January, when we will let you know what our response is.

This week we have been delighted to welcome some new teachers to the school and, in true Pitsford style, it was like they were always here: Mr Rizvi in Computing, Mrs Clark in Modern Foreign Languages, Mr Gray in Games (where he is providing more breadth in boys' games in particular), Ms Watkins in Art, and Mrs Shah in the Junior School have all made a fantastic impact already and will go on to be Pitsford legends. Welcome, welcome and *lang may yer lum reek* at Pitsford, as I believe some Scots are wont to say.

Headmaster: Dr C Walker

Pitsford Hall, Pitsford, Northamptonshire, NN6 9AX  
Tel: 01604 880306 e-mail: [office@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:office@pitsfordschool.com)

Pitsford School is the trading name of Northamptonshire Independent Grammar School Charity Trust Ltd  
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Registered Charity No: 298910



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This will be a brief term but we have a great deal crammed in with trips and sports fixtures all due to take place in the coming weeks, on top of all the teaching and activities which will fill every day, and I think it will be a super few months up until Spring. But it will require a great deal of energy, so get plenty of rest this weekend and stay safe.

Best wishes and speak next week,

C G Walker

PS Please find attached the term dates for the next academic year



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## Term Dates 2022 – 2023

Parents are requested that they pay careful attention to these dates when arranging family holidays.

### Autumn Term 2022

Staff Training Day	Wednesday	31 August
Staff Training Day	Thursday	1 September
Pitsford School opens for the Autumn term	Friday	2 September at 8:40am

### Half-term break **Monday 17 October to Friday 28 October**

Pitsford School closes for the end of term	Thursday	15 December at 12:00 noon
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*Bank Holiday: Monday 29 August*

### Spring Term 2023

Staff Training Day	Monday	9 January
Pitsford School opens for the Spring term	Tuesday	10 January at 8:40am

### Half-term break **Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February**

Pitsford School closes for the end of term	Friday	24 March at 4:00pm
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*Easter Sunday: 9 April*

### Summer Term 2023

Pitsford School Opens for the Summer term	Monday	17 April at 8:40am
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**Bank Holiday Monday 1 May**

### Half term break **Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June**

Pitsford School Closes for the end of term	Wednesday	12 July
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*Bank Holidays: Monday 1 May, Monday 29 May*

