

JCA/STH

11 December 2009

Dear Parent

As Christmas draws near at lightning pace, I wanted to let you know about the end of term arrangements.

Normal lessons will be taught until the morning of Friday, 18 December, although we have our final assembly for Year 7 on Thursday afternoon. Friday sees the annual staff revue at which staff and pupils perform to the delight of Years 10 and 11, not always because of the quality of the performance. Years 7 and 8 enjoy Christmas celebrations in their forms, while Year 9 has the chance to watch a film in our 'cinema'.

As has been our practice in recent years, school will close at 12.05; there will be no afternoon lessons. This supports a purposeful end to term for all of us – and allows our staff to enjoy Christmas lunch together, before going our separate ways for the festive season.

All bus services other than the Citi 7 will depart from the playground at this earlier time and arrive at their destination in their usual time-frame. Unfortunately, Stagecoach Citi 7 is not able to provide a service from the school playground at this time. Pupils who travel on the Citi 7 will need to catch the bus from the top of New Road, opposite the Police station; a member of the senior leadership team will escort them and supervise them at the bus stop. Alternatively, parents may choose to make their own travel arrangements.

Of course, Christmas never arrives officially until our annual Christmas carol service in Great St Mary's on the last night of the term. I will look forward to joining many of you for this wonderful occasion, a magnificent showcase for the skills, talents and dedication of our pupils and their teachers.

School starts again on Wednesday 6 January. Despite any information to the contrary from your offspring, this is not a training day.

Adult Education

As you know, we run a programme of Adult Education throughout the year. The programme for the spring term is attached. Don't miss the opportunity to sign up in the Christmas rush. New additions include Digital Photography, Horse Care Studies, Indian Head Massage, Reiki Level 1 and Interior Design – I think we can justifiably maintain that we are offering something for everyone! We are very interested in expanding our programme. If you have a hobby or an interest you would like to pursue through our adult programme, please let us know; we will happily seek out an instructor.

We have also become an accredited Microsoft Academy Training Centre and are able to offer training courses to companies in the course of the working day. To ensure we are able to meet the projected demand we are currently seeking to secure the services of an IT specialist who would be interested in teaching these accredited courses. Please let me know if you are interested and have the requisite skills. I should be pleased to meet with you and explore possibilities.

A culinary opportunity

Mrs Meehan is currently planning her 'Create and Stir' cookery course for our pupils for next term and is looking to include an international dimension; it runs as an after-school class.

If your ethnicity is other than from these fair isles – I have offered her my recipe for haggis, neeps and tatties, but she claims it doesn't meet the criterion and, in any event, the haggis-hunting season is now past – and you are a keen cook who would be interested either in donating recipes for your traditional dishes or, indeed, joining the group for a session, please contact her on cmeehan@sawstonvc.org to discuss possibilities.

Festive good wishes

May Christmas bring you family, friends and the joy of the season.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M J A Cannie
Principal