



## *Shipston High School Newsletter: December 2023*



Dear Parents and Carers,

Shipston High School is approaching the end of the Autumn term. As always, this has been a very busy term, and students have worked extremely well across the school. I would like to thank everyone involved with Shipston High School for their support and take this opportunity to share some useful updates.

### **Term dates:**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 – school breaks up for Christmas. 12.30p.m. departure

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Term begins: INSET day for staff – closed to pupils

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Pupils return: 8.35 a.m. start for all pupils as usual

### **Christmas Activities**

As we approach the end of term, Shipston High School will maintain the traditional enjoyment of the season.

This year the school will support the Shakespeare Hospice charity with proceeds from the annual 'Christmas jumper day' on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. This is not a non-uniform day, so please wear your jumper in addition to the usual school uniform. We will not be collecting cash in school for this event. Should anyone wish to make a donation to the Shakespeare Hospice, this can be done by following the link below which takes you to the just 'giving page'. Both the wearing of Christmas jumpers and the charity donation are of course entirely optional.

[www.justgiving.com/campaign/shipston-high-school](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/shipston-high-school)

The PE Department will again be holding the annual Santa Dash, which will take place during their PE lesson in the penultimate week of term. This will be an inter-house event and will be an opportunity for students to wear festive items or costume if they so choose. As part of a suite of events to support Shakespeare Hospice, students are invited to seek sponsorship for this event. We recognise not everyone has access to potential sponsors, but all donations are appreciated.

Christmas lunch will be served to students on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December**. Please note that students who wish to have a Christmas lunch need to pre-book via Parentpay. For Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December students may wear a festive accessory such as a jumper, Santa hat, tinsel etc. in addition to their usual school uniform.

School breaks up for the Christmas holidays on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Following a long term of hard work from all students, I am pleased to confirm that the last Friday will be a shorter day for students, with a departure time of 12.30pm. Students should travel straight home after school, and bus operators will confirm their collection times soon; we will update you in advance of 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Attending School**

This time of year can bring seasonal illness, and we appreciate families informing the school when children are unwell and unable to attend. If your child is unable to attend, please report this to us. Details of how to do this are on our website:

<https://shipstonhigh.co.uk/information/attendance-and-absence/>

The school is guided by government publications on attendance, and interested families can read department for Education guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

There is also useful guidance on common medical situations available from the NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for your support with attendance, which we know is important to us all, students, families and school staff.

### **Staff news**

Christmas sees us say farewell to colleagues who are leaving Shipston High School for new roles. Mrs Wright will leave after a term as temporary senior lead for Pastoral, attendance and safeguarding, and Mr. Lam finish his short term role in Maths. We wish them all the very best for their future endeavours.

January will see new colleagues join the school, and we look forward to welcoming Miss Lissaman as Assistant Head for Pastoral, attendance and safeguarding and Mr Groom will join the maths department. Many families will remember Mr. Groom from a previous period with Shipston High, and we are pleased to welcome him back to the school.

## **Winter weather**

Winter can of course bring adverse weather conditions. Our preference is to maintain normal school opening through the year, but inclement weather can sometimes affect school opening times. Please note the following information regarding our procedures in the event of challenging conditions:

### **Advance notice of a School Closure**

In order to avoid students and parents having to make unnecessary journeys to school, as far as possible we will always try to give parents as much advance notice as we can of a school closure. At the latest this will be by 7.00 a.m. on the day, but if we have sufficient cause to be concerned, we will try to issue the information the evening before. Parents will be able to obtain information about a closure by:

- Consulting our school website [www.shipstonhigh.co.uk](http://www.shipstonhigh.co.uk)  
This is the quickest way to be informed.
- Following the school on X / Twitter (@shipstonhigh)
- Consulting the Warwickshire County Council website [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures)  
This page contains a list of all schools in Warwickshire which are closed or planning to close.
- The local authority has taken responsibility for passing on information about school closures to the radio stations so we have no information about how early in the day the information will be broadcast.

### **Forced closure of the school during the school day**

If it becomes necessary to close the school during the school day then we will operate the following contingency measures:

Once the decision has been made to close the school the information will again be placed on the School and County websites. Students will be informed of the decision. The school will then arrange contact with parents to seek permission for each child to leave the school site or to arrange collection. Pupils without parental permission to leave the site will continue to be supervised in school.

Please note that under no circumstances should students contact parents to seek permission to go home or leave the school site without the permission of a member of staff. Please note that while we will do our best to contact the various bus and taxi operators that service the school it may not be possible for them to adjust their times because of other commitments. If it looks likely because of road conditions that they will be unable to collect students at the end of school we will do our best to inform parents. Also, there may be

circumstances when the school decides to remain open but, because of local conditions, parents wish to collect students early. In this case we ask that parents refrain from telephoning school to obtain permission to collect their children and instead report to Reception and a member of staff will collect students from their classes.

Finally, may I ask you only to telephone the school regarding weather as a last resort as our switchboard is quickly overwhelmed which then causes problems when we need to make and receive urgent calls.

Please note that these arrangements apply with immediate effect. However, we very much hope to avoid any weather related closure.

### **Community Links**

Shipston High School has been actively involved in increasing community links this year, and Christmas is an ideal time for connecting with others. The school was delighted to be part of the recent Victorian Evening, and we have worked with local residential homes to invite residents into school for a 'mince pie and carols' afternoon.

The charity drive for the Shakespeare hospice is part of our outreach work, and we aim to raise £3000 for the hospice through our various events; an ambitious target for a worthy cause.

Shipston High School is keen to further improve our community links by organising the return of a school Parents' Association. We have enjoyed really positive contributions from parents in the past; some readers will remember the Friends of Shipston High (FOSH) group. Now that the restrictions of the pandemic are behind us, it feels like the right time to re-forged those links. If any parents have an interest in forming and contributing to a Parents' Association, please contact the school expressing an interest and we will then consider how best to proceed.

### **School Website**

The school website is a really useful source of information for parents. The site holds lots of relevant information on all aspects of school life and is always worth checking before phoning with an enquiry as it may save you some time. Mrs Clifford has recently been updating the site to improve its layout, so do please have a look. The site links to our X (Twitter) page which is where we now post up to date news about events and activities. Please follow the X page and check in with the daily updates along with enjoying the full website:

**Thank you**

Thank you very much for all of your ongoing support this term. It has been a busy term for everyone, yet students remain energetic and positive. Your role in this is really valued, and we appreciate your actions in supporting students into school, smartly dressed and ready for learning. Thank you too for the kind feedback we receive; I know just how much staff value your thoughtful comments. On behalf of all of us at Shipston High School, I wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a restful New Year.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Saunders', is centered below the text 'Yours sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

G. Saunders