

The Green, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 3AG

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**Devizes School
& Sixth Form College**

Raising aspirations, building futures

PNB/GMW

23rd November 2018

Dear Parents

Now that we have settled into Term 2, I am writing to remind you of some important dates:

- **Friday 30th November 2018** is a Staff Development Day for all the secondary schools in the north of the county. Our staff will be collaborating with colleagues from other schools in training activities and therefore Devizes School will be closed to students on that day.
- **Friday 21st December 2018** is the last day of Term 2. Students will be dismissed at 12.30pm.

Both of these dates have been published well in advance on our website as we aim to keep parents informed as early as possible. To this end, we do not expect parents to book holidays during term-time or overlapping the beginning or end of term. Similarly, long weekends which include Mondays or Fridays will not be authorised. Legally we cannot authorise absence for holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Communication. There is every chance that the school will be inspected by Ofsted in the near future. In the event of this happening, we will ask you to complete a Parent View questionnaire online. You would need to register as a parent of a Devizes School student and then follow the links. Although Ofsted inspectors will use this information as part of their investigations, parents are welcome to access and complete the questionnaire at any time (<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>)

A reminder about Safeguarding. We have installed new gates by the Lower School Hall to restrict traffic on the school site. We have also changed the doors at the front of the school so that the only access to the site between 8.30am and 3.00pm will be through reception. This will greatly enhance school safety and security. Mrs Amy Robinson is our new Safeguarding lead, with Miss Marshall, Mr Andrew and myself as deputies. All details are on the website if you have concerns about a child's safety.

I would also politely ask you to please refrain from coming on to the site, i.e. through the gates, at the beginning or end of the day to drop your child off or collect them. It causes unnecessary congestion at times when there are a lot of students and young children around.

Thank you for your support on these matters. Thank you also for your ongoing support for your children and their education; it makes all the difference. Devizes School is a very positive place to be. Attendance is really improving, uniform standards are high, behaviour in classrooms is very good and has been commented on by all our visitors, and student progress as a result is also consistently improving. Thank you for helping your children to take pride in their school. I was delighted to hear recently from a local Wiltshire County Councillor: *"May I express my thanks to the staff and students at Devizes School for allowing me to join the Ceremony of Remembrance. As always, the event was conducted with great dignity and I was particularly impressed by the immaculate conduct of all of the young people present."*

Yours faithfully

P Bevan, Principal

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