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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this finds you and your families well and looking forward to a relaxing and restful Christmas holiday.

As you may be aware new protocols were issued yesterday. These protocols have delayed the opening of school until 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and stipulate that all students should have a PCR test within 72 hours of returning to school or a rapid test within 48 hours. As I write this, the protocols do not mention an exemption to this rule for people who have been vaccinated or who have a Covid recovery certificate. Please be aware of this and ensure that all students have a relevant test result in time for school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Our Mock examinations will now run from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January until Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

After a long and eventful term we are all now contemplating a couple of weeks to recharge our batteries and to enjoy spending time with our loved ones. I am aware though, that for some of our students, this Christmas holiday will not be quite so carefree, so I would like to take this opportunity to send my best wishes to our Year 10 fast track groups and Year 11 students who will be revising over the holiday in preparation for their Mock GCSE and IGCSE examinations.

These students should remember to make their revision an active process by doing something other than reading through their notes. Make a Mind map, list the important facts and key words, use [Cornell notetaking](#) to break down the subject and keep track of the areas on which they still need to work or the questions they have to find the answer to.

These Mock examinations are high stakes, the results do matter, so it is worth spending time to review their work and to practise questions so that they can do themselves justice in January. We spoke about effective revision methods in our first parent seminar:

 [Study Skills.mp4](#).

Even in the last few days of term we have managed to fit in a lot! Our Year 7 and 9 students have had the opportunity to watch 'Sabel's Red Dress', enjoying this beautiful piece of theatre at the same time as learning more about the experiences of people living very different lives to their own. Many thanks to the Greek Department for organising this fantastic opportunity.

Y7 students organised a collection of toys and clothes for the refugees in the First Reception Centre "Pournara" in Kokkinotrimithia. We would like to thank students and parents from all year groups who donated toys and clothes. We know that these donations will mean a lot to the families who receive them in time for Christmas.

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Y8 have been raising money through their latest 'Superhero Challenge', collecting 1, 2 or 5 cents in their form groups. 8U are to be congratulated on raising the most money, they got to nominate the charity for all of the money raised in this initiative and I am sure that Cancer Research and Care will be very grateful.

Last week, the student council students visited the Karaiskakion Foundation, one of the charities that they have chosen to support in our non-uniform days, the other being Young Heroes (Μικροί Ηρωες) and the UNHCR. They sorted out and did the packaging of donated hair which will be sent to the USA to "Wigs for Kids", a NPO that make wigs for children who lose their hair after chemotherapy. It was a unique and very rewarding experience for the students and Mrs. Papanastasiou. Many thanks to her for organising this!

Our Arts Captains have also been raising money for charity, through the sale of the calendar featuring art work from students at both the Junior and Senior School Campuses. They also made and sold cookies and other baked goods, raising over €700 to support Step Up Stop Slavery.

Three students in Year 7 organised their own bake sale on Monday, making brownies and cookies, to raise money for the Dogs Shelter. They did very well, selling out in 10 minutes and raising over €90. I was very impressed with their resourcefulness, if disappointed that I got there too late to sample their produce! If your children are contemplating organising a bake sale, please encourage them to check with their Head of Year first.

I was really impressed by our GCSE Drama groups, who performed their devised pieces, plays that they have written and developed themselves. Unfortunately, they were unable to perform to their families and I look forward to being able to repeat the experience later in the year for a larger audience. We are fortunate to have some very talented young performers in the school and they should be proud of themselves and their performances!

Our students have been impressive in other fields as well, Bogdan from 8U participated in a swimming competition last weekend in Limassol. He did extremely well, coming first in the freestyle 100m and second in the freestyle 50m.

At the time of writing we do not have the dates on which the Rapid Testing Unit will be in school. I will communicate these to you as soon as they are released. I would recommend that all students, regardless of their vaccination status, have a test before returning to school on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

I wish those of you who are travelling away this holiday a safe and enjoyable journey.  
Happy Holidays to you all!

Kind Regards,

**Dr. Beth Ashfield**

Acting Senior School Headteacher / Principal  
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