

# Lowton Church of England High School



**Lowton**  
Church of England High School

1 December 2023

Dear parents and carers

We start the month of December with three weeks to go until the end of term. This term will end on *Friday 22 December at around 12.15pm*. More details will be provided nearer the time. Until then, please continue to work with us to achieve strong attendance for your child. Every day missed is missed learning and whilst there will be circumstances when your child is not well enough to be in school, every day of missed learning impacts on their overall achievement in school.

**Christmas themed non-uniform day:** On *Wednesday 13th December* we will have a 'Christmas themed' non-uniform day to help raise money for Ugandan orphanage. Students fondly remember the visit from The AYF Band from Uganda last half term. Some members of that band run an orphanage in Uganda and we would like to send our love back to them following their visit to us with a financial gift that would help them continue their selfless work.

We would value your support for this great cause and would ask for a donation of at **£2** (or more if you would like). You can pay in advance through your child's SCOPay account under the Tips and Events tab or your child can hand in cash. In order that we can hopefully maximise the gift to the orphanage, we would politely ask that you do not feel compelled to buy any new clothes for this day in school.

Why do we do it? One of the reasons is to help us personally reflect on what we have and what we may take for granted. But also, to consider with students the bigger issue of social action, and helping those in challenging situations through no fault of their own. At the heart of our social action focus as a school is the inspiration we find in the Old Testament book of Micah, which challenges us to *'do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God'* (Micah 6:8)

**Mock examinations:** Year 11 started their mock examinations this week, and have two more weeks to go. They have started well, attendance and attitude has been very strong.

The full timetable of mock examinations can be found here:

<https://www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=180&type=pdf>

**Child Tax Credit moving to Universal Credit:** If you are a parent who claims Child Tax Credit, you will be aware that this is about to move over to Universal Credit. With this change there will be an impact on your entitlement to free school meals. Currently anyone on Child Tax Credit can earn up to £16,190 a year and be entitled to free school meals. When they are moved over to Universal Credit this changes significantly.

Families who earn more than £7,400 a year would no longer be entitled to free school meals if they apply after the change to Universal Credit. **This is not a school or local authority decision, but one of national Government.** To check your eligibility criteria and apply for Free School Meals please click on the Gov.uk link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

**The importance of good hand hygiene:** The Health Protection Team has advised us that there has been a notable increase in children experiencing diarrhoea and gastrointestinal illnesses. They have asked us to pass on the following information.

**CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING**

**Mr Kieran Larkin**  
Headteacher

 Newton Road, Lowton  
Warrington WA3 1DU

 [www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk)

 01942 767040  
 [enquiries@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk)

 [@lowtoncofehigh](https://www.facebook.com/lowtoncofehigh)  
[facebook.com/lowtoncofehigh](https://www.facebook.com/lowtoncofehigh)

As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children and teenagers away from their classmates and studies. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.

Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time.

Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The e-bug resources for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important - to your child or teenager.

To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections.

Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. Do not return to work or send children to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and do not visit your GP or hospital while symptomatic. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the NHS web pages. For useful handwashing tips please have a look at this NHS video: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

**Kieran Larkin**  
Headteacher