

SHOEBURYNNESS HIGH SCHOOL

A member of SECAT (Southend East Community Academy Trust)



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11th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

You may be aware that the DfE issued a statement to schools regarding exceptionally allowing them to finish the term slightly earlier than planned next week by one day, on the Thursday 17th December by taking Friday the 18th December as a non-pupil day. The main reason for this was to ensure that leaders were not still checking on track and trace on Christmas Eve.

The DfE did however, state that should Friday 18th be taken as a non-pupil day, we would have to make up the lost learning at another point in the year. This would mean extending the term by a day at another point in the year.

This statement has come incredibly late in the term. It has also been left to the discretion of Schools/Trusts as to whether we put this in place.

At the Executive Team Meeting yesterday evening – of which all Headteachers are an integral part – we discussed our views. We already have a half day planned for next Friday. We do not feel that any further learning should be lost. We have also had feedback from parents generally about the difficulties they are experiencing with childcare arrangements and with lost earnings that have ensued.

It is also very late in the term to be making changes. Not to mention that by taking Friday as a non-pupil day this would have necessitated further changes in the coming year.

We will therefore, stick to our original plan for a half day next Friday.

Ruth Brock
Chief Executive Officer
SECAT



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