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Uttoxeter Learning Trust  
Thomas Alleyne's High School  
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ST14 8DU

10 December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

## Letter regarding term dates - Uttoxeter Learning Trust (Covid-19)

You may be aware of the DfE announcement on Tuesday, giving schools the option to close at the end of Thursday 17 December. The opportunity to finish teaching on Thursday 17, rather than Friday 18 December, would mean that the six-day window that Public Health England has requested staff are available to act on track and trace information would not extend into Christmas Eve.

For schools to be able to do this they would have to designate Friday 18 December as an INSET day and then ask pupils to attend on an INSET day later in the academic year. Alternatively schools could add an extra day onto the spring or summer term, but no learning time should be lost.

Due to the late announcement and effect on more than one day of the school calendar, the Uttoxeter Learning Trust has decided not to change the term / INSET dates previously advertised. Therefore, pupils will be expected to attend on Friday 18 December. This difficult decision has been taken bearing in mind the views of headteachers, as well as the concerns of many parents and carers around having to make new arrangements at short notice.

As a Trust we wish to recognise the hard work of our employees who continue to work tirelessly, including out of hours, to ensure that any track and trace information is shared with parents / carers promptly in order to keep your children safe.

Please can I remind you that the start of the Spring Term will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January as Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a designated INSET day. We continue to appreciate your support during these challenging times and wish you and your families a restful and safe Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Sarah Clark (CEO Uttoxeter Learning Trust)