

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

9th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I was aiming to write to you in the coming days but given last night's Government announcement about the implementation of the 'Plan B' response to ongoing coronavirus, particularly around the new Omicron variant, it seemed a good time to give some updates. Before I do that a reminder that Friday 10th December is international "Festive Jumper Day" which we are participating in. Students are welcome to wear a festive jumper (either bought or a normal jumper suitably decorated in the spirit of the event). The suggested donation is £1 which goes to 'Save The Children' charity. It is **not** a non-uniform day and therefore normal trousers/skirt and shoes must be worn.

Plan B Implementation – the reality is the move to 'Plan B' doesn't (currently) have any real impact on Education given we were already being asked to wear face coverings in communal areas, take LFD tests twice weekly and encourage vaccine uptake. Once change (or turnaround) seemed to be around close contact guidance for those identified as close contacts of anyone positive with the Omicron variant. This however will be communicated directly by 'Test and Trace' to any family directly affected.

Last Day of Term finish – Friday 17th December is the last day of this term. The Student Council petitioned for an early finish to the school day which many schools do and we have done in the past. I have agreed to meet them in the middle of their request and therefore the day will finish at 2:10pm (end of Period 5). If there are any families where the early finish causes an insurmountable problem then please do contact the House Team and we will look at options to accommodate until the usual 3pm time.

January Return Testing - The Government have requested that every student who is willing and able, takes **one** lateral flow test **on site** before the return to school in January. The testing for students will be done prior to returning to the academy. The plan for the pre-return testing will be on our Inset Day on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Please look for the slot for your child(ren) based on the year group **they are in**.

Tuesday 4 th January 2022				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 8	Year 10	Year 11
8.45am – 9.45am	10.00am -11.00am	11.00am - 12.00pm	12.30pm – 1.30pm	1.30pm-2.30pm

Students will enter and exit for testing through the fire exits of the Main Hall (by the bike sheds in the main car park) and will likely only be on site for a maximum of 15 minutes. The system will be exactly like it was in September though only a single test is being requested this time. As has always been the case, consenting and participating in testing is optional though of course the greater the testing uptake the statistically lower chance of ongoing Covid infections within the Academy reducing the chances of continued disruption to education provision. I therefore do thank you in advance for any support you provide.

For all year groups if you consented previously on the return in September and still wish to consent you need to take **no further action** as we can carry your consent forward. If you didn't consent previously and now wish to (or vice versa) please complete a new consent form. The link to the online consent form is Lateral Flow Testing - [Please click here](#)

January Return – regardless of whether you participate in the testing on Tuesday 4th January **all students** will return **at normal time** on **Wednesday 5th January**. Therefore all students are to return to site on Wednesday 5th January at 8:30am and we will move straight back into a normal school timetable.

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Parking on yellow lines in car park – I know I have written countless times about the car park and therefore I apologise for sounding like a broken record. However, over recent weeks several of our students have complained of feeling unsafe in the car park due to either standards of driving or, in particular, inconsiderate parking on the double yellow lines particularly on the approach to the zebra crossing areas. There are also many drivers ignoring the one way system and turning around and driving the wrong way. This is obviously concerning as, understandably, people don't always look for approaching traffic coming the wrong way down a one way road. It does sadden me that I may have to deploy resource to try and police adults driving vehicles so please could I respectfully request:

- a) You avoid coming into the Car Park unless absolutely necessary (ie, medical condition requires immediate vicinity drop off). Where possible drop off on Manor Road, Snowdon Road, Grove Road, B&M Car Park and students can use the cut throughs to walk the final 2 minutes. Will also help with physical wellbeing by getting a brisk walk before arriving to school or at the end of a day. As we share the site with Briarwood Special School I cannot close the gates and restrict access.
- b) If you really must drive on to site then please respect road markings and signs. Please also respect staff if they have to point out markings or signage to you. We are trying to help our students, your children, feel safer as they arrive or leave their school and I know we all want children to feel safe in their community.

Finishing off on some positive news items...

Children in Need – we had a non-uniform event and a Pudsey dress up competition for Children in Need a few weeks ago. This year we raised over £1000 just through the non-uniform. There were some amazing Pudsey entries with vouchers for the winning efforts being awarded. Next year we hope to welcome back Mrs Harman's Pudsey Readathon (and Pudsey cakes!). We also made it on to the BBC News with some of our Pudsey characters!

Robins Foundation – we were gifted 10 free tickets to a recent Bristol City match courtesy of the Robins Foundation. We were able to distribute those to students and they joined some of our regular staff attenders for a great afternoon (if you are a City fan) out.

Face Covering Donation – following my last letter with a plea about ensuring students bring their own face covering (which still stands, please do continue to support) one of our families donated 2000 face masks. We are incredibly grateful to them and their company for this kind gift which helps us continue to conserve our own funding for core education.

If anything emerges or changes before the end of term I will write again. If not I wish all of our community and families a very relaxing and recharging Christmas break and festive period. I know that regardless of observance the two weeks will be welcomed by all after a busy first few months of the year. The short days of these winter months are always more challenging for our young people (and us adults) so please do enjoy the time together.

Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal