

26th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are just approaching the end of the “midway” week of term. We now officially begin the approach to the Winter break and Christmas period and I know all of our families will be looking forward to being able to spend some time together resting and recharging. Although some of my messages will seem a little repetitive, the announcement last night of the return of Red Travel Lists and the reintroduction of some of the in school Covid control measures means it is pertinent for me to talk about them again.

Covid Control Measures – I absolutely know that many families, and students in particular, are covid control fatigued. This relates to face coverings, testing and other general measures. For our young people in particular they have now spent a significant period of life living under this pandemic. However, I am sure we all agree that we do not want to see tighter control measures return. I don't want to see bubbling of year groups, segregated social time, restriction on after school events (we have literally just today announced our December 2022 musical production return... 'Matilda' the Musical, which will be in jeopardy if after school mixed year group events get restricted again). Regardless of what your personal belief may be around efficacy of face coverings or actual harm to young people through Covid infection I am asking for as much support from the community as possible in ensuring that we feel we have played our part in reducing the chance of tighter control measures coming back. Particularly as we approach the winter period and as we approach the Christmas break.

This brings us on to:

Face Coverings – face coverings at lesson changeover, where large numbers of students mix outside of their social circles, is a measure being asked for by public health. Since this was reintroduced 4 weeks ago we have spent over £3000 giving out face coverings to students each morning for those who arrive without them. This is not funded specifically and therefore is coming from school funds which could otherwise be spent on education. I know that every student who is not medically unable is likely to own several face coverings by now so I please ask for your support in ensuring that students have several face coverings on their person each day.

LFD Testing – the Government continue to ask that students and staff in secondary education provisions continue to take and report to the NHS lateral flow tests twice a week. We suggest Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. When you report a result to the NHS for students it asks for their school. This gives me an overview of numbers each week (no personal data). Our figures for last week would be around 5% of students! I absolutely know that more students than that are testing which suggests either results not being reported (especially negative results, it is easy to assume there is no importance in reporting negative results but the NHS use that data to track areas of concern where they can divert resources to) or that the Academy is not being included in the results reporting. Please do continue to test, report and name the Academy in the NHS reporting system. Test kits are freely available from Student Reception for students to request whenever they need supplies.

Vaccines – I fully appreciate that the vaccine is a choice for families but I also know many students could not receive their vaccine when we had the provision on site but have asked us since then how they go about getting it. I know many of our students have already received a vaccine but a reminder that any student aged 12 or over is eligible



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

to book their coronavirus vaccine. It can be booked online and can be given at any vaccine centre. This is the [link to book](#). Any Year 11 who is 16 can book their second vaccine using the same link.

Moving away from Covid slightly a few other announcements:

Children in Need – last Friday we had a non-uniform day for Pudsey and Children in Need. Whilst many students went for traditional non-uniform we also had some amazing Pudsey character contributions. Kieran, Buddy and George took the prizes for their efforts. Along with a number of other students they also featured on the BBC News which some of our families may have spotted. Overall we raised over £1000 for Children in Need which exceeds our previous efforts so a massive thank you to families for your donations.

Academy Council Vacancy – Finally, we have a vacancy on our Academy Council for a Parent Councilor. The Academy Council is part of the statutory governance model for schools (sometimes referred to as a Governing Body in other schools). The Academy Council consists of a number of volunteer members (some parents, some community representatives) and plays a vital role in some independent oversight of several areas of our daily function. Further general information about the CLF this can be found [here](#). If you are interested in finding out a bit more and potentially applying for this vacancy then please do [click here](#)

Until next time,

Best wishes,

Mr C Shaw
Principal