

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS21st October 2021**This is a long but important letter so I have also recorded it on audio which can be listened to by clicking [here](#)**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for all of the support across this long and busy first term. We know there will be lots of tired students (and adults) having worked hard to settle back into routines over these last 7 weeks. We hope the week ahead gives an opportunity for some family time and some recharge.

Given heightened media coverage in the last few days I will start with the covid related items:

Reintroduction of some control measures – When measures were removed in the Summer the Government retained the right to reintroduce certain measures in local areas dependent on infection levels as part of their [education contingency framework](#). Last night we were contacted by the South West Public Health team to recommend that schools in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and BANES reintroduce some measures given our current case figures (in the wider South West) are higher than the national average. We are therefore having to reintroduce the following measures for a period of **2 weeks** initially upon our return on 1st November:

- a) Mixed year group assemblies will return to Online. Same year group assemblies can carry on in person.
- b) Face coverings are re-introduced for those not medically exempt in **communal areas** at lesson changeovers and social time when not seated eating/drinking. Please ensure your child has at least 2-3 face coverings on their person each day otherwise they may have to return home to collect one.
- c) All students are asked to take a lateral flow test at home on Sunday 31st October and stay away if the result is positive (and book a follow up PCR as an urgency, they must isolate whilst awaiting the result). Anyone else living in the same house is **still able** to attend if they have a negative LFD but should book a PCR as a precaution. They **do not** have to isolate until the PCR result comes back so can attend school if they do not have symptoms themselves.

We know these measures will undoubtedly cause anxiety and frustration but we once again thank our community for their understanding and team spirit. The last thing we want is to potentially be told to restrict attendance or start sending groups of children out again so we really do ask that everyone supports us in following the guidance to reduce the risk of further restrictions.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFD) – The Government have requested that all secondary students continue to take LFDs at least twice a week including across the half term break. This seems particularly pertinent given the number of positive cases in young people who remain asymptomatic and the current increasing case numbers. If you run out of tests you can get more for free in a number of ways whilst the Academy is closed. Have a look at this [link if you need](#)

Vaccines for young people – As you know, this week the school based immunisation service administered seasonal flu and/or coronavirus vaccines to those young people who had consented. We were really pleased with the mature attitude shown by all of our students across these 3 days.

We also know there were a number of families, who may have missed the permission links in the first communication, who have subsequently contacted us to ask how they can receive a vaccine. Sirona Health have just announced that anyone eligible for a vaccine (which is **any** child who is 12 or over on the day they receive the vaccine) can now book

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an appointment directly at a [community clinic using this link](#) or they can attend an NHS mass vaccination centre which can be [booked now using this link](#). Sirona are happy to answer questions from any families and can be contacted on 01275 373104 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

As we enter a period away from the Academy I also wanted to share a couple of Safeguarding messages:

Squid Game - We are aware of a new TV series on Netflix 'Squid Game' which involves incredibly violent scenes but is attractive to young people given the "children game" nature of the activities it portrays. We have also been made aware of games being set up on Roblox around this theme. Please be vigilant around the content students may be watching or playing. This series has been age rated as a 15. You can find a link [here](#) to set age restricted content within Netflix

Omegle Online - We have been made aware of students accessing Omegle online. This should not be accessed by anybody under the age of 18 due to explicit content and other safeguarding concerns. Please see safety information [on this link](#).

I also wanted to share a couple of nice charitable activities we have recently seen:

CLIC Sargent - Our Year 11 Prince's Trust group organised a refreshment sale and raised £220.73. CLIC wrote to us to thank these students for their efforts in supporting the amazing work of this charity who support families and young people affected by childhood cancers.

Book Fair – Our Librarian, Mrs Harman, held the annual Book Fair and over £550 of sales were made. This has resulted in nearly £300 of new books being made available to our Library for students to access. Thank you to all of our students and families who made purchases and supported this.

Exam Invigilators / Support - Finally, I wanted to reach out to our families to highlight our vacancies for Exam Invigilators. As much as possible we try to use our own bank of invigilation staff for our exam seasons as we think that friendly and familiar faces help students feel at ease in exams. In particular this is vital for those students who get additional exams access support and have a 1:1 invigilator who may help read or write for them. We have a number of vacancies currently. If you are looking for some casual work, or just have the time available and would like an opportunity to be more involved in the Academy, please consider this role and look at our [advert on this link](#)

I hope all of our community stay well over the break and manage to enjoy some quality time together despite any renewed uncertainty.

Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal