



15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we enter the final week of the first half term, I would like to update you on a number of things.

### Covid cases within school

We are seeing a rise in the number of cases reported to school, which is in line with the picture nationally. Today, I have written to parents of students in year 9 to tell them of a small outbreak in that year group, which is now thankfully under control. The health and wellbeing of our children, young people and families remains our highest priority so I would like to remind you of the guidance and thank you in advance for your support. All parents are asked to:

1. Notify us as soon as possible **if your child has had a positive Covid-19 test**
2. Make sure if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 they isolate and book a PCR test immediately, **then follow the advice you're given when you get the result**
3. If your child has any other symptoms or is not feeling well, then stay away from school as you normally would if your child was unwell, **and please also seek a PCR test.**

Please make sure you **book a test using the online portal or call 111** and click the option that says: **"My local council or health protection team has asked me (or someone I live with) to get a test, even though I do not have symptoms."** **If the result is positive your child will need to isolate. Follow the advice you're given when you get the result.**

4. Continue with the routine twice weekly LFT testing at home. Anyone who has previously received a positive Covid-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of Covid-19.

The half term break is one week away and I am sure I speak for everyone when I say that no one wants to be in a position of having to self-isolate any time, but especially during that week. As a result, I am putting the following additional measures in place in school:

- suggesting all staff and students return to wearing masks in lessons and communal areas
- stopping face to face assemblies for years 7-10, instead delivering them via Teams in form time.
- Year 11 assembly next week is attended by Runshaw College so that assembly will run, but chairs will be distanced, all windows and doors will be open to allow for increased ventilation and students will be encouraged to wear masks.

## **Vaccination programme**

You will recall that I sent out a letter and reply slips about the Covid vaccination programme earlier this week. I have been contacted by the vaccination team who have informed me that the vaccinations will now take place on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** instead of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October for those students whose parents have given permission. I would like to reiterate here that school does not hold a view on whether or not parents should agree to have their children vaccinated; we have simply been asked to provide a venue and facilitate the process for those parents who wish their child to take part. Given the new date, please can all consent forms indicating whether you would like your child to receive the vaccine or not, be returned to school by **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**.

## **Proposed Bus strike**

I am pleased to confirm that the bus strike that was proposed to take place next week has been cancelled. Those students who travel in by public transport can expect to travel into school using their normal bus.

## **Cold weather clothing**

Thank you for your continued support of our school uniform requirements. As the winter draws in and the weather becomes colder, school is also colder because we need to keep windows and doors open to provide adequate ventilation. We have taken delivery of a number of ventilation monitors from the DFE and are monitoring ventilation levels in all rooms regularly. I would like to remind students that they can wear their PE zipped jacket if they wish to, on top of their school jumper. They can also wear a t-shirt underneath their shirt/blouse as an additional layer to keep warm. We have also asked our uniform providers to source a black fleece style jacket, which has been embroidered with the school badge. These can be worn in class over other items of uniform as a further layer of clothing as the weather gets even colder. Please note that outdoor coats and items of clothing that do not carry the school badge cannot be worn indoors.

## **EduRio Survey**

Thank you to those parents who responded to the recent survey about how we are doing overall as a school. We received over 200 responses. I will write to you early next term when the full analysis has been completed to share with you the actions we intend to take.

## **Forthcoming events in our calendar**

Next half term the following events are planned to take place:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November return to school after the half term break

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November Cardinal Newman hosting year 11 assembly

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November parent and child physics workshop 5pm – 7pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November certificate evening for former year 11 students

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November Year 10 parents evening via School cloud

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November INSET day – school is closed

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November INSET day – school is closed

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December year 9 parents evening via School cloud

Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Dinner week

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December school closes for the Christmas break at 3.00pm

I hope you have a pleasant half term break

Yours sincerely



Miss S Asquith  
Headteacher