

14th January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you to Year 8 parents and carers who made appointments to discuss the progress of students in this year group. I hope you found it a useful series of meetings. The next Parents' Evening is for Year 10 on Thursday 27th January and this will again be held on the school cloud system.

I said last week that we had not heard from the school immunisation service about the second Covid vaccine. That remains the same - students who had their first vaccine on November 1st can be booked in on NHS website for second vaccine from January 24th. Please do continue to test students twice a week and ensure they have a mask with them unless exempt.

Most students choose to do the right thing at the right time every day. A small minority choose to behave in ways which can disturb the learning of others and this is never acceptable. While detentions are usually on a specific evening for each year group, I remind you that if a student is timed out of a lesson they will have a same day detention for 20 minutes with a member of the leadership team until 3.30pm.

Homework is an important aspect of learning and becomes increasingly so as students move up the school. All Year 11 should be doing at least two hours a night on top of their day in school if they really want to prepare well for the summer exams. GCSE students can never say they do not have homework - if nothing specific has been set there is plenty to revise, GCSE pods to watch, literature texts to re-read etc. Year 10 should be working toward this.

Lower down the school the amount of homework given will vary and we do not have a homework timetable - homework will be given where it best fits with the learning taking place. However there is always additional reading students could be doing - please check the website - or they could just be reading for pleasure. Reading will develop vocabulary, develop the imagination and provide a wealth of cultural knowledge. Where specific homework is set, this will be recorded on Synergy.

Today we began our journey to be recognised with the Rainbow Flag Award. We have a thriving LGBTQ+ group in school and want to ensure we are doing all we can to support our students. I am grateful to the staff working with this group.

With best wishes

Andrew Waller
Headteacher