

January 28th 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the weekly newsletter.

Post Ofsted

When Ofsted inspected the school in October they asked us to focus on a couple of subjects to strengthen the curriculum and assessment plans in those areas. I asked a former senior inspector to work with us and ensure we are moving in the right direction and he has so far spent two days in school. I am really pleased to say that after his recent visit he wrote to me and said 'it was clear to me that you were all determined to bring about improvements. As such, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to act on the recommendations from our last meeting. I am of the opinion that the right steps are being taken and good progress is being made'. This is very encouraging and I thank the staff involved.

Covid matters

Yesterday we took the decision to follow national Government advice and remove the requirement to wear a face covering in communal areas – it is now a matter of personal preference. The number of Covid cases in school has gone down over the past few weeks from the high 70s to the 30s and we hope it continues this downward trend. If there was to be a rise in cases resulting in a directive from Public Health then we would have to reintroduce face coverings but hopefully that will not be the case.

A reminder that the Immunisation Team will be in school on Thursday for the covid vaccine. I have previously sent out the link to the online consent form and this will close at midnight on Sunday 30th January. To consent to your child's vaccine please click or visit <https://www.bthimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Covid> The code for your school is BP119744

Year 11

Year 11 completed mock exams last week and those who were absent have been catching up on those exams in the last couple of days. Please continue to encourage Year 11 to be putting maximum effort into their studies – they should be doing two hours of work each evening.

Year 11 should also now be very much engaged in applications and interview processes for Post 16 education.

Today, Preston's College were in school conducting interviews for September.

I also draw your attention to an event at Blackpool and Fylde College called 'Meet the Expert'. The link is here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-experts-tickets-252167589047?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

If any students that have applied/going to apply to Newman are interested in trying out for the Basketball, Netball or Football sports academies they can complete the link on the form below and the sports coaches will be in touch with trial dates.

<https://go.cardinalnewman.ac.uk/form/sports-academy>

Dance Festival

Apart from in 2020 we have had a very successful dance show each year just before the February half term. A few weeks ago we took the decision to postpone this event because of the pandemic and so it will not take place on February 17th and 18th. We are looking to re-arrange this event for the penultimate week of term on March 24th and 25th.

Free School Meals

The Local authority has informed us that there will be a £15 voucher available again to cover the half term holiday. We will send those vouchers in the usual way.

With best wishes.



Andrew Waller
Headteacher