

January 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2022 as we start the Spring Term. I hope you and your families had a good Christmas season.

## Covid

- Thank you for the testing that has taken place at home and to the team in school who ran a very efficient process. As a result of all the testing at home and in school we have 67 students currently who are unable to be in school having tested positive. If they are well enough they should be following their normal timetable through Synergy. Please contact school if your son or daughter does not have access to a computer at home during their isolation.
- From Tuesday next week (January 11<sup>th</sup>) you will be aware that there is no longer a need to get a confirmatory PCR test if someone is positive on lateral flow but not showing symptoms. Please upload any LFT results to the NHS and forward on the NHS email to us if there is a positive case.
- It is already the case that someone who has tested positive can return to school on day 7 if they have a negative lateral flow on day 6 and day 7.
- Up until today we have managed to cover lessons as a result of staff absence but we do have contingency plans to have two or three classes working in the hall at a time should it be necessary – as it was today. Where possible we will have a specialist teacher taking merged classes in the hall but there may be occasions where students are supervised working through Synergy or text books.
- To allow the hall to be available for cover, assemblies will be remote for the next two weeks and then we will review the situation.
- We have not yet been given any information about a second vaccine for 12-16 year olds in school. Those who were vaccinated in school on November 1<sup>st</sup> would be eligible for a second dose from January 24<sup>th</sup> (12 weeks after) and this could be booked through the NHS website.

## Year 8

Year 8 parents Evening will take place on Thursday January 13<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 7pm through video meetings on School Cloud. Year 8 Parents and carers have been sent the relevant information already – but please do make your appointments by logging into the system.

## Year 9

As part of their PSHE programme, Year 9 will have a performance from the band "Here At Last," next Thursday followed on with a talk on Mental Health, Online Safety, Cyber Bullying from the band and a live Q&A.

## Year 11

Year 11 Health & social Care students have their public exam on Monday afternoon and then mock exams for all Year 11 begin on Wednesday January 12<sup>th</sup> and last a week. As we have repeatedly said, it is really important that these mocks are taken seriously and that students work hard to prepare for them for two reasons:

- In the very unlikely event that exams do not take place in Summer 2022 then these mock results would play a very significant role in deriving Teacher Assessed Grades. The mock grades from English, Maths and Science last term have been published this week. It is important to say that should we need to generate Teacher Assessed Grades, mock grades would play a very significant part in the process but any individual mock but would not be the only evidence used.
- The mocks will indicate strengths and areas for development for teachers to focus on with students in the coming months as we prepare for public exams.

With best wishes.



Andrew Waller  
Headteacher