



Congleton High School

Achieving Success Together

Congleton High School
Box Lane, Congleton
Cheshire, CW12 4NS
T: 01260 730123
E: enquiries@congletonhigh.com
t: @CongletonHS
www.congletonhigh.com
Headteacher: Mr J Barlow
BA (Educ) Hons, NPQH

17th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start another busy week at school, I wanted to provide you with a quick update on a number of things. The start of term has gone extremely well and I have enjoyed talking to students in Assemblies on the theme of 'respect' and how we all have a responsibility to maintain a respectful and orderly environment where staff and students work as a team. As I have walked round school many times in the last couple of weeks, I am delighted to see such a purposeful learning environment with students engaged in lessons. Thank you for supporting us with our uniform policies and ensuring your children returned at the start of the term dressed smartly and ready to learn with the correct equipment.

Covid-19 Updates

We started in January with about 60 student absences for Covid-19 infection and staff Covid-19 illnesses were higher than normal, however, these absences had reduced by the end of last week and I am keeping a watchful eye on how things develop over the next couple of weeks in particular. Staff are working extremely hard to ensure that students are not getting unduly disturbed by Covid-19 issues and I continue to be so proud of the resilience and determination shown by everyone in school during this difficult period.

There have been some recent updates from Cheshire East and from central government in relation to isolation that are worth noting. The Cheshire East approach to 5 day isolation for siblings of an infected child has now been removed. From January 17th any sibling of a child who has Covid-19 (where the sibling is not showing symptoms) should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test for 5 days running to keep checking for possible infection. As long as they remain negative, they can keep coming to school. Please exercise as much caution and common sense in this approach as you can.

From Monday 17th January, people who are self-isolating with Covid-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Track and Trace. If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

The rules around confirmatory PCR testing have also changed. If you have symptoms but have not had a positive LFD test you can go for a PCR, but you do not need to go for one if you have a positive LFD test. As LFD tests arrive into school we will continue to distribute them out to students and staff.

The school has been scheduled for a second round of student vaccinations on Wednesday 23rd March 2022. Currently the ruling for students aged 12 to 15 is that there must be a 12 week gap between either infection with Covid-19 or the date of the last injection. Please read the attached letter for further details which contains a link to the electronic consent form. Consent must be given at least one week before the vaccination team visits the school.

Face Coverings

Early in the new year, the government announced a series of changes to restrictions and measures in schools, these include secondary age pupils wearing masks in classrooms as well as communal areas. This advice will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Attendance and Punctuality

As a school, we have a target of 98% attendance for all students. We fully appreciate and acknowledge the challenges we currently face but please ensure your child attends school and is punctual when well enough to do so. If you or your child is struggling with any issues that are affecting attendance, please contact your child's Tutor or Guidance Team Leader.

Vaping

We have been contacted by our School Nurse Team at Cheshire East as there has been an increase in the number of young people in the community who are using Vapes as a way to deal with their anxiety. At CHS, we have very clear expectations around smoking, vaping and bringing prohibited items onto school site - please see our RBFL Policy:

https://www.congletonhigh.com/uploads/document/2_164_rbfl-policy-letter-document-october-2021.pdf

This policy includes on the way to and from school and at other times where students may be representing the school. We will treat any breaches of this policy seriously and repeated breaches may lead to Fixed Term Exclusions. We want all of our students to be safe and feel safe. We are also setting up support sessions with the School Nurse Team around smoking cessation. If your child is required to attend, we will be getting in contact with you. If you would like to request support for your child, please contact their Guidance Team Leader or Form Tutor or email lfranks@congletonhigh.com

Applications for Post 16 Courses/Training/ Apprenticeships

Miss Boulton (Assistant Headteacher) is preparing the process of our Post 16 interviews for all Year 11 students and I am delighted that we already have 160 applications for our Sixth Form in September. It is important that Year 11 students are thinking about their plans for Post-16 courses, whether that is at CHS or another educational provider. If they need any help or guidance they can request an appointment with our independent Careers Advisor, Jaydeen Pickford. If any Year 11 student still wishes to apply for CHS, then they should submit their application as soon as possible.

Term Dates for 2022-23

I am aware that families are already planning holidays for next year. Our term dates for the next academic year are now on our website for your reference.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Year 7 Boys Football team who won the regional round of the Manchester United Year 7, 7a-side High School Tournament and will now play in the national finals in June.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Barlow
Headteacher