

This week's update includes: vaccines; open evening; post 16 evening; Year 11 parents' evening; year 7 Launch for Success evening; year 7 CATs examinations; rewards; school buses; attendance; PE update; SEND Updates; Skittles Squad; Sexual Health Week; Support for Families ... Better Sleep; Support with feeding your family; Therapy and Specialist Support Team

We are getting back into the rhythm of the new term. It's been our first week uninterrupted by COVID testing as our students settle into their new timetables. Most students are settling well!

I know that parents will be very interested - and possibly anxious - about the news over the past week with regard to [COVID vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds in England](#). We don't have any confirmed dates or arrangements yet, but this is the latest information from the government to schools. We expect to hear more details soon

This autumn, all young people aged 12 to 15 are being offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccinating young people should help to reduce the need for young people to have time off school and should reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The main purpose of the COVID-19 childhood vaccination programme is therefore to provide protection to the young people who receive the vaccine and to reduce the disruption to face-to-face education this winter.

Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine. This [NHS leaflet](#) provides more information to parents, carers and eligible young people on the vaccine, including how it works and what to expect after having the vaccine.

Thank you to those families who visited us on our **"Open Evening"** this Wednesday, for prospective children who are due to make the move to secondary school next September. We had a wonderful evening with all of our new faces being welcomed, ready for next year. There were a variety of activities ranging from explosive experiments to the smells of the rainforest to our very own Bake Off (see more details below). A number of our current students took part and supported the evening. It was great to hear our student leaders presenting to parents and new students as well.

Next Thursday (23rd September) is our **Post-16 Evening - between 6pm and 8pm - for Parents, Carers and young people in Year 11**. This is a great opportunity for our current Year 11s, along with their parents/carers, to come along and discuss their options for when they leave Werneth. The guests will include a range of local colleges, businesses, and apprenticeship companies

Other news:

- Our **Year 7** students have sat their **CATs examinations** this week in our Main Hall. The CATs are national standardised tests that provide us with an oversight of students' starting points in terms of literacy, numeracy and other key skills. We use them in school to gain a level of understanding to support and stretch our students. They conducted themselves really well!
- At Werneth School we are developing our range of **rewards** to recognise more students on a daily and weekly basis. This term the school has launched a weekly star of the week award, with all teachers

nominating one student. The students are celebrated around school. One name is then drawn each week to receive a £10 gift voucher. We will keep you updated with our winners!

- We have been having some issues with **school buses** in terms of timings. We are challenging Transport for Greater Manchester and working with Stockport MBC to resolve these issues quickly and permanently.
- Following positive feedback from parents last year, we are intending to continue our **online Parents' Consultation Evenings** this year. They allowed more parents to participate and most people found them to be more efficient in terms of time, allowing you to stay at home and speak with us. The first of our Parents' Consultation Evenings is coming up on **Thursday 14th October for Year 11**. We also have **Year 7 Launch for Success evening on Thursday 7th October**.

- **ATTENDANCE - Over 94% attendance** in school so far this year. Very well done! The Attendance Team would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support in sending their children into school. Words cannot express how amazing it is to be back to some normality for the new term. It has been so lovely to see all our students again. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new students joining us for the very first time this academic year.

Good attendance is crucial to the future educational success of your child. At Werneth School good attendance is defined as 97% and above, but your child must aim for 100% attendance. If your child achieves this, they will have full access to a knowledge rich curriculum, the opportunity to engage positively with the academy and be able to enjoy a feeling of belonging to their community. The Attendance Team are always on hand to support our students and their families. Please read our attendance letter and parent brochure on our website for further details: <https://www.wernethschool.com/parents/attendance>

- A reminder that **some children with SEND are entitled to extra time in examinations** ... if you believe this may apply to your child, please contact Mrs Burke or Mrs Cuthbert in school for more information.
- **PE clubs and fixtures next week - Ms Sloane**

Next week sees our first fixture week with matches against Marple Hall in football, netball, hockey, badminton and table tennis. This will alter some of our clubs next week. An EduLink message will be sent to all parents with the full list of clubs and matches happening next week. We also have our first reward trip of the year with Year 10 GCSE PE students being invited to the Carabao cup game against West Ham on Wednesday 22nd - let's hope for a Ronaldo master class! Lots more trips hopefully for all years coming up

Thank you to parents who are contacting me about participation in PE. Physical activity is so important for our students so we want them taking part as much as they can

The Great British (Werneth) bake off on Open Evening - a report from Mrs Crane, Head of Technology:

Using the fantastic kitchen in Room A12 four students from Year 10 took part in the challenge to bake the pastry, biscuit or cake of their choice. Prospective parents and students were given the opportunity to taste the delights and there were some fantastic



samples. Judging was tough with Mrs Crane commenting on hygiene, safety and organisation and Mr Conroy judging overall presentation and taste.

And the Winner was **Benji** with a chocolate and Nutella decorated cake. Very close runner ups are **Evie** with a lemon drizzle cake, **Jonah** with a carrot cake muffin and **Ethan** with a cookie. They all worked extremely hard to produce some gorgeous dishes. It was very difficult to judge as all the cakes were delicious! Remember everyone..... **Keep baking!**



This week saw the return of our **Skittles Squad**. This is an LGBT+ support group for all students and allies who want to make a difference to LGBT+ inclusion and to express themselves in a safe, nurturing environment. The launch saw 44 members join the squad, creating an amazingly open and vibrant environment with thought provoking and encouraging discussion of how to raise awareness surround LGBT+ inclusion within school and the wider community. We look forward to welcoming all of our members again next week and working with them throughout the school year to create a lasting impression on LGBT+ inclusion within our community.

[An Introduction to Sexual Health Awareness Week 13th September-24th September 2021 - Mrs Smith O'Connell, Head of Life Learning](#)

With the introduction of mandatory Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) in 2020 it's more important than ever that we are ensuring that our students are well equipped to stay safe in the outside world.

When it comes to sex and relationships, topics like consent are still seen as a "difficult" issue. "Difficult" to teach in the classroom, "difficult" to discuss with young people and "difficult" to answer their sometimes tricky questions. But it shouldn't be that way. For Sexual Health Week 2021, Werneth is normalising conversations about SRE topics and empowering our young people to talk about it positively and proactively.

During one form time over the next 2 weeks students will focus on a different SRE topic, watch a short video and have a discussion based around it. Each activity and topic is age specific and related to what they shall be covering across the Life Learning curriculum this year. For information, You can find the link to one of the Y7 and Y9 videos here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpCyyNqzIE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUCe1xrm7OU&t=31s>

[Free Supporting Better Sleep Webinar:](#) Tuesday 28th September 2021, 6pm to 7.30pm. Joe Booker, Autism Practitioner from Seashell will contextualise their understanding of sleep, offer some helpful tips and tricks, and suggest changes you can make to the bedtime routine and environment to help your family get more and better sleep. Book your place [here](#)

As the uplift for universal credit ends very soon, it's a really good time to promote "Your local pantry" to families.



There are five pantries in Stockport that the community can sign up for. Each charge £3.50 a week for membership, which enables members access to 10 items of shopping each week, often worth up to £20 or more! People

can find out exact locations and apply via www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk They also offer a family membership which is £6.50 and members get double the amount of food. The pantry flyer link to join is here, with information for members to sign up - <https://your-local-pantry.force.com/s/member-sign-up>

Coffee mornings with Together Trust: Monthly drop in and chat coffee mornings with Therapy and Specialist Support team. Professional Therapists are available to chat to, including;

- Speech and Language Therapists
- Sleep Practitioners
- Education and Clinical Psychologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Positive Behaviour Practitioners
- Education and Clinical Psychologists

Parents and carers have the opportunity to meet others in a similar situation and our team can provide information and support in areas you might be experiencing difficulty in. We also provide a **comprehensive Autism specific library** and many other resources which parents and carers are welcome to access.

All drop-in sessions will be 10am - 12pm on Tuesday 23rd September, Tuesday 19th October and Wednesday 15th December. These will continue on a monthly basis from January 2022.

For more information you can call Together Trust on 0161 286 4201, or [visit their website](#).

Have a good weekend!