

This week's update includes:

Welcome back; testing update; possibilities of remote learning; second COVID vaccinations; Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening; Nasal Flu Vaccinations; New staff; New Beacon Counselling Service

Welcome to our first Friday Parental Update of 2022!

Thank you so much for ensuring your children arrived at school with **face coverings**, and that they were **tested on return**. We have had a generally positive response so far, but we need to keep that going. Approximately 80% of our young people were tested this week, and we had a total of 4 positive cases from the tests. This means we currently have a total of 25 students isolating with COVID in total. We know that this figure is likely to change each week, but if we all co-operate

and support each other with the precautionary measures of face coverings, it helps to minimise the spread of the virus. A reminder that **children should be tested twice weekly now at home using lateral flow devices**. A reminder to **let us know if your child has tested positive using the attendance systems in school - telephone or email us**.

The possibility of sending children home to work

I want to be very upfront and honest about a situation that is worrying all headteachers at the moment. I must be very clear to parents that - in line with the national picture - we remain concerned about the possibilities of increased staff absence this term. There comes a time in school when we simply cannot teach classes if too many teachers are absent. We already have a significant number of teachers isolating. I will try very hard to avoid remote learning. However, it may be unavoidable to do this. Safety cannot be compromised in supervising young people in school.

In the event that I need to consider remote learning, it is likely that we will select a year group who will remain at home for a specific day. We will cycle different year groups on a daily basis if we need to do this, and provide work. We will of course communicate this in advance of the day, but the nature of absence may unfortunately mean that we will be able to provide little more notice than this. I can only apologise if that is the case. It will be my priority to NOT allow Year 11 students to miss school in this final term of their GCSE courses.

A reminder again that **SECOND COVID VACCINES will be provided in school **within the next ten days** for those who have provided consent. NHS staff will complete this over two days, and will only vaccinate those where parents provide consent. Please read the attached**

letter and complete the consent form if you wish your child to receive this second vaccine. Unfortunately we have to ask for your consent again as you only provided consent for one vaccination. If you now want your child to receive a vaccine and this will be their first vaccine, that is fine: fill in the consent form. **All consent forms need to be returned by this Friday please (thanks to those who have!), but if you can return it on Monday we will still be able to process it. You can print your own copy and send it in with your child. We also provided children with a copy of the [consent form](#) and [accompanying letter](#) when they were tested this week. [You can download them from the links above].**

Year 7 [virtual] Parents' Evening - Thursday 13th January.

Letters have been sent with Year 7 pupils today regarding next Thursday's Parents' Evening. You can start booking appointment slots with teachers using the system from 5pm today (Friday). If you need any help with booking appointments, please contact tracy.taylor@wernethschool.com in the first instance and we can help. Just in case you aren't sure, the parents evening system uses schoolcloud.co.uk and you will complete your appointments from home. The letter will give you the full information, and I have reproduced it [here](#) for parents in case your letter didn't arrive at home.

REMINDER: Nasal Flu Vaccinations take place on Monday 10th January - only for students who returned their signed consent form last term. Any queries, email alison.phillips@wernethschool.com

New Staff

We welcome a number of new staff who have started with us this week. Welcome to Mrs Moussima who joins us as a member of our Foreign Languages department, to Mr Hewlett who joins our History department, Mrs Wilson and Miss Miller who are Higher Level Teaching Assistants and to Ms Pett who joins us as a pastoral administrator to help with attendance and SEND administrative work. We wish you all well in your new work with us!

Beacon Counselling

We are seeing first hand the impact the pandemic has had and how it continues to impact children and young people's emotional and mental health. Sadly, we expect to see this continue for a number of years. However Beacon Counselling will continue to do everything we can to support those who are struggling. This year we have launched a new free emotional wellbeing service, SHINE, for all Young People in Stockport aged 11-17 years. Young people can self refer or be referred by a professional/parent/carer. It is suitable for young people who are struggling with their emotional wellbeing. It is not a counselling service and should not be accessed in replacement of counselling. Further details can be found by following the link below or emailing shine@beacon-counselling.org.uk

Link: [Shine - Beacon Counselling \(beacon-counselling.org.uk\)](http://beacon-counselling.org.uk)

Have a good weekend!