

Dear parents/carers,

In my last letter to you, I spoke about how we hoped that more of the communication that we had with parents would be positive and would involve praising students. So far, we are really pleased with how students are responding to our new systems. We are using a system called Class Charts this year. By now, you should have been sent log in details so that you can access a little bit more information rather than just getting an alert. I was delighted to hear that within 48 hours of letters being sent over 400 parents had signed in to the system. We will be keen to get feedback from you on this system as we move further into the academic year.

As you know, you can access your child's attendance on the Gateway app. Please be aware that this is not a live system, it refreshes every 24 hours. Therefore, a child may be given an N mark as they are not there when the register is taken, if they arrive late this is changed to an L but you will not immediately see the change. Please be assured that if we are concerned about your child's attendance or they have not arrived at school, we will be in touch with you.

Now that COVID testing is finished on-site, students will return to conducting lateral flow tests twice a week at home. All students will be offered test kits in the academy for them to bring home. It is not compulsory for students to do this but by identifying potential asymptomatic cases we can keep our school community a little bit safer. You will receive an email twice a week (Sunday and Wednesday) with details about how to log the test result.

We have now had some communication regarding the vaccination of secondary school children against COVID. As with other vaccinations, the school immunisation team are our point of contact, and we have just found out that vaccinations will take place on Monday 18 October and Tuesday 19 October. Children aged between 12 and 15 years old on the day of the vaccination will be eligible and parental consent will be gained prior to vaccinations. **Any child who does not have parental consent but would like the vaccine will not be able to have the vaccine on site at the academy.** Consent will be gained from parents via on online or a paper-based form. We will find out further information about consent on Monday 11 October and then we will be in touch. In short, the academy has 3 roles in the vaccination process:

1. To provide the school immunisation team with details of eligible students
2. To send you consent forms once we have received them
3. To provide a site for the vaccinations.

Whilst, COVID has undoubtedly not gone away, it has been nice to be able to return to some level of normality. It is lovely to see students moving around the academy once more and seeing them being able to enjoy more practical opportunities than they experienced over the past 2 years. In usual circumstances, if a child is marked absent/ill then we will not set work as they are clearly not well enough to work. At the moment, a student may test positive for COVID and feel well enough to complete work. From now on, if you ring to confirm a positive COVID case, you will be asked if your child is well enough to complete work. If they are then we will notify teachers so that they can ensure that Teams invites to lessons are sent.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Coning
Head of School