



School Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

Happy New Year to all our pupils and families. I hope you have all had a safe, happy and holy Christmas break.

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our pupils on Monday 10 January. However, given the ongoing concern about COVID, I would ask for your assistance in supporting our young people to understand our approaches to maximising safety and minimising disruption to learning and teaching :

LEARNING DURING ISOLATION

If any pupil does have to isolate, learning can and should continue as far as possible through Teams in the first instance. If any pupil has difficulty in accessing this work, please contact Pupil Support.

CHANGES TO ISOLATION RULES & LFD TESTING

A summary to the **CHANGES TO ISOLATION RULES** is available [here](#) for your review. You will notice that LFD Testing is mentioned throughout these changes which may mean pupils will require more testing kits. Currently, we have a good stock of kits available from the school office so that all pupils will still be able to do their tests before coming to school every **MONDAY and THURSDAY morning**. All results should be reported on the NHS portal [here](#). Please see our [website for further details about LFD Testing](#).

AVOIDING CLOSE CONTACT

Unless there has been unusually close contact (such as a sleepover), pupils in school continue to be seen as **LOW RISK CONTACTS**. We will continue to support physical distancing by asking pupils to maintain their year groupings during interval and lunchtimes, and to avoid large groups or physical contact. If any pupil does have to self-isolate, they would be asked to identify any high risk close contacts: these would include people they live with or who have stayed overnight in their home.

INCREASED VENTILATION AND TIME OUTSIDE—WEARING A JACKET TO BE DRY AND WARM

We will continue to increase ventilation within classrooms, and to ask pupils to be outside during interval and lunchtimes. I would ask that all pupils come to school dressed to be dry and warm outdoors.

ENTERING THE BUILDING

S1/2 pupils should continue to line up in the main playground before school and after interval/lunchtime.

S3 pupils should enter through the Janitor's door and go directly to classes.

S4-6 should enter through the School Office door, and go directly to classes.

SANITISING

Appropriate products are available in every classroom to ensure that hand and desk sanitising will continue to be supported each period. All staff and pupils are asked to continue to observe increased personal sanitising and hygiene practices.

MASKS

All pupils are asked to bring and wear their **own mask** to school unless they are exempt. Face coverings should continue to be worn in class and throughout the school day.



VACCINATIONS

Please find below a reminder of the latest guidance related to COVID vaccinations:

- All 16–17-year-olds are eligible for two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, plus a booster dose no sooner than 3 months after completion of their primary course.
- All 12–15-year-olds are eligible for two doses of the Pfizer vaccine.
- 12–15-year-olds who are in a clinical risk group, or a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed should be offered a booster dose no sooner than 3 months after completion of their primary course.
- 12-15 year olds who are severely immunosuppressed and have had a third primary dose, should also be offered a booster dose no sooner than 3 months after completion of their primary course.

Information on booking an appointment can be found [here](#).

We will continue to review and update our approaches to keeping our community safe in line with the latest guidance.

S1 PUPILS' LUNCH

As is the tradition, all S1 pupils will be allowed to 'go out' for their lunch. I would ask that all parents of S1 pupils discuss this with their child and highlight the importance of road safety, time-keeping and maintaining the school's good standing in the local community (e.g. through good use of litter bins and manners).

S5-6 PROGRESS ASSESSMENTS

Further information will be coming to all S5-6 students and families regarding the upcoming progress assessments.

As ever, if you have any queries or concerns, please contact your child's Pupil Support teacher in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,
Paul McWatt