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24th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well.

Students have settled back into school well. Our Year 7 students have made a really positive transition to secondary school. Likewise, Year 12 have embraced life in the sixth form and are making a very positive impression. It was good to welcome both sets of parents into school for information meetings. We will continue with a mix of face-to-face and virtual meetings, taking on board parental views.

## Year 6 Open Evening

On the 7th October, we are holding our Year 6 Open Evening. We will be extending the evening and running a pre booking system in order to accommodate students and parents in a more COVID-19 secure way. **School will close to pupils at 12:40pm on Thursday 7th October** so that we can prepare for the evening. Pupils in receipt of free school meals will be able to collect them earlier in the day.

## COVID-19

As a school, we continue to do all we can to ensure we mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. Keeping our children and young people well and in school is our priority. Since the beginning of the year, we have required students and staff to use face coverings inside communal areas, along with increased ventilation and hygiene measures. We continue to have a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school population each week. After further consultation with Public Health, we have decided to keep the requirement of face coverings up until half term (22nd October) with a hope that on our return to school on Monday 1st November, we will no longer require students to wear face coverings. We will of course continue to monitor the situation carefully and seek advice from appropriate bodies.

## **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

You will be aware that the government are rolling out a vaccination programme for 12 to 15 year olds. A number of parents have asked about the role of the school in administering vaccines. The vaccination programme is being run by the NHS, through the School Age Immunisation Service.

The school will provide the premises and support in the distribution of consent forms. We do not hold any view on whether children should or should not be vaccinated. No pressure or comment will be made around the decision to take part or not to take part in the vaccination programme.

If there is a discrepancy between what a consent form says and the wish of your child, the school will have no part in any resolution. That will be the role of the School Age Immunisation Service who will contact you.

The school will make no comment about the child's competency to make a decision (Gillick Competency).

The following links to the Department of Education and its <u>page of resources for young people</u> and their families

As soon as we know when the vaccination programme is to start, we will let you know.

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

With very best wishes,

Steve Lewis

**Head Teacher** 

