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The cornerstones of our learning community

5th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Sixth Form Open Evening

We have returned to school and are immediately into discussions with our Year 11 students about future choices. Our **Sixth Form Open Evening** is on **Thursday 18th November**. Other post-16 providers are also holding open evenings/days in the coming weeks. This means that our students really need discussion and support to help them make important decisions about their choices after Year 11. All students have a 1:1 meeting with a member of staff to talk through possible plans, it is great to sit and reflect on their successes and strengths as part of the process. We have an outstanding Sixth Form so it is easy to recommend it as a place of study for students hoping to follow A leveL/Level 3 courses.

COVID & COVID Vaccination

You will be aware that we have experienced a significant increase in COVID infection rates in the school. These continue to be concentrated in Key Stage 3, at present the vast majority being in Year 9. I was contacted by Public Health England for a discussion about these rates, they were satisfied by the precautions we had in place and will continue to monitor the situation. Rates, as of today, appear to be falling. I hope this pattern continues. The NHS vaccination team have provided us with the following guidance with regards student vaccinations in school (eligible students in **Year 7, 8 and 9** are due to be **vaccinated on 15th November**):

If a student has tested positive via a PCR test for COVID any time after Monday 18th October **they will not be able** to have the 1st dose booked for 15th November 2021 as they have to be 28 days clear between the confirmed PCR test and the vaccination. If they have already given permission to have the vaccine parents need to call the team on 01293 227797 8.30am – 5.00pm to advise of the positive PCR test.

Catch-up clinic sessions can be booked after the 28 day period by calling 119 or using the following link https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-1st-or-2nd-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/

All Year 10 and Year 11 students who have not yet had their 1st dose and wish to do so are to also make contact for a catch-up clinic on 119 or by using the above link online.

We have also been advised that any student who has tested positive **cannot LFT test for 90 days** as this reading may not be accurate, therefore when their 10 days isolation has been completed and providing they are well enough they can return to school.









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Keeping Safe

We get occasional notifications from the Police if they require help disseminating messages to students and parents. This week we have been advised about girls being approached by a male in his 30s, asking to be their friend. Whilst we have not received reports about such incidents directly it does serve as a timely reminder to discuss with your children how to keep themselves safe when walking to and from school. It is important that any concerns are always reported.

Governors Survey

Our Governors undertook a survey with selected students and parents last academic year. The outcomes from this were recently discussed both at full governors and in a smaller meeting with myself. We have identified a few action points in response which we will be investigating this year. A letter from the stakeholder group, responsible for gathering feedback, is attached to this letter.

Lunchtime Lectures

You may have seen reference to our lunchtime lecture programme recently. This is a programme of lectures, given by staff, about topics of general interest. I sat in on the first one, delivered by Mr Mumby our Leader of Economics & Business. He told the tale on the unknown hero, an individual who emerged during the Rwandan genocide in the 1990's. It is wonderful to see staff give their time in this way (such lectures take a great deal of preparation), it is also heartening to see a number of students attend. There is great value to be gained from such wider learning, beyond the classroom, it helps provide a rich and fulfilling school experience.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Brown Headteacher