

June 18th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid matters

Unfortunately there has been another positive case this week – this time in Year 9 resulting in 25 students needing to self-isolate until Friday June 25th. As I said last week please continue to test your children at home twice a week and do not send them into school if they are showing any symptoms or if the lateral flow test shows positive. Please do report the results to school. All this will help break the chain of transmission and support all the other measures taken in school.

Transition Day

Unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic and the advice of the LA and DfE we have, along with other secondary schools in the area, decided to cancel our transition day for Year 6 on July 1st. Mr Penney and the transition team will arrange some alternative remote provision as well as continuing to visit the primary schools. All those joining us in September will also be given a book called 'Go Big'.

Year 10

Monday 21st June sees the start of Year 10 Exams week. Exams will be held in the Sports Dome with desks appropriately distanced. I hope Year 10 are revising effectively for these exams. Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Next Steps Week starting June 28th but the subject taster day for Cardinal Newman College on July 5th will go ahead as that is remote.

Year 11

The Teacher Assessed Grades have now been submitted to the Exam Boards and will be published to students on August 12th. Details of the appeals process will be available by then.

Pastoral leaders

The current Year heads of Years 7, 8 and 10 have held assemblies today to say good bye to their year groups – though this had to be done virtually. The year heads will take responsibility for their new groups on Monday. I would like to thank them all for the huge amount of work done to support their students during the time they have been responsible for them.

Diversity Week

Next week is Diversity Week and the PSHE lesson and assembly will focus on how

- We can show we're an accepting and inclusive school community
- We believe that no one should face discrimination because they are different to others
- It's important to raise awareness because life can still be really difficult for LGBT+ people around the world

Good News - National online safety

As a school we are delighted that the National Online Safety organisation is using us as a case study on their website. There is a link to the full article on our own website and it is thank you to the whole school community for their ongoing commitment to this important aspect of our work.

With best wishes



Mr A Waller
Headteacher

See Letter below -

Open Letter to parents from the Secretary of State for Education

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has today written to secondary school and college parents and guardians in England to talk about the importance of regular testing when it comes to keeping covid out of the classroom.

The Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be paused for up to four weeks because of the spread of the new variant.

With the increase in cases with variants of concern, it is important to continue regular testing in order to detect cases of coronavirus, stay ahead of the virus and keep covid out of the classroom.

This means that regular asymptomatic testing for all will continue, and we need you and your children who are in secondary school or college to carry on testing at home, twice a week.

As you know, testing has been playing a vital role in our response to the virus. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country.

I want to thank you all for your efforts so far. I know that this has been an enormously challenging time for families, who have faced many pressures over the past 18 months. Your continued support in helping us fight the virus has been vital.

Secondary pupils and college students, households and their bubbles, along with school and college staff have now completed more than 50 million tests since these were introduced back in January. That really is an incredible number and we need you to continue your efforts.

It is wonderful to see so many children back in school and through your actions we can work together to keep everyone safe ensuring we can also keep your children in school with their friends.

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP Secretary of State for Education