

Dear Parents and Carers

We have made it through the first week back after our 7 day isolation. I thank you for working with us to ensure that we did not have a repeat of the previous testing results, and only 2 students were sent home as a result of the in school testing on Monday. Can I also ask parents to check your contact details and those of your emergency contacts with school to ensure that they are up to date

Well done to all our 6th form students who had recently finished their mock exams and I pray that they get the results they aspire to reach..

As you are aware the government is lifting some covid restrictions, with a caveat that local public health provisions are responsible for the restrictions in their locality. As already stated in a previous letter, the number of cases we have experienced places us beyond Amber restrictions. We are therefore still bound by our current restrictions until next week when we have our next review meeting. I envisage that by Monday 29th January if we continue the way we are we should be back to normal that week.

I have been informed by community leaders this week that a few parents were upset with the Q&A session held on Monday by NHS Practitioners and the Director of Public health regarding Covid. Everyone's view is different and I respect that, but the school community had a lot of questions which they wanted answered, and we had an extremely high amount of positive cases.

From feedback received the most contentious issue was around consent. It is a fact that from Year 8 onwards students can give their own consent for testing and vaccinations, according to the Gillick principle. However, the practitioners were clear of the need for students to talk to their families about this, to do their own research and ask questions on the things they were unsure of. This was a minor part of the session as the main purpose was for the students to quiz the practitioners which they did very well. No questions were off the table, students could ask what they wanted to, and I am extremely proud of how students articulated their thoughts and challenged the doctors on what they had heard. The feedback from the professionals was that they were amazed by how our students questioned them and gave them things to think about.

I would also like to clarify that any information sent to you regarding vaccinations comes directly from the NHS. I therefore cannot fulfil any requests to remove parents from any mailing list, as I assume the information comes via your child NHS records.

Whether you believe in covid or not, whether you agree with vaccinations or not all I ask is that you:

1. Do not send your daughters to school if they are sick.
2. Allow your daughters to check themselves (LFT) to see if they test positive for covid before they leave for school.

I will be providing the same opportunity for parents and carers to have a Q&A session and I am working with the NHS to get some dates and times that can fit around working and non- working parents. I hope to get that information to you next week once confirmed.

On the whole it has been a productive week with only a small minority of students falling below expectations, which has and will continue to be dealt with and the appropriate sanctions applied.

Please look out for information regarding the NHS Q&A sessions and I wish you and your families a very happy and restful weekend

Mrs Hayden