

Dear all Parents & Carers

I hope this email finds you all safe and well.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support in a settled start back to the new school term. I know there will be a lot of excitement in the lead up to the Christmas Holidays. I am hopeful that we will be able to run our Winter Showcase in person, and invite parents & carers along to watch and support this. We will be monitoring closely the local context in regards to Covid-19 infections, before making this decision. Please also note that this half-term finishes on Thursday 16th December and students will finish at 12:00pm on this day.

In terms of the local context in relation to Covid-19, I would like to provide you with an update around testing and vaccinations. Although the recording of tests went up over the half-term holidays, our school catchment areas still have one of the lowest rates in the city. I can appreciate that this may be due to tests not being recorded - and not necessarily tests just not being done, but I thought I would provide you with that context. Can I please ask that you continue to routinely support your child with Lateral Flow Testing at home, twice a week.

It is also a similar picture with vaccinations in that the uptake across the city for 12-15 year olds is much lower than the East of England, and England, uptake. If you wish for your child to have their vaccination, please be reminded that you can support this via a drop in centre at Queensgate.

I am happy to also inform you that we currently have 8 confirmed PCR positive cases across the student body, and 7 awaiting PCR results. This is still significantly lower than the rate we reached during week 5 of the previous half-term, and what other secondaries across the UK are experiencing. We do monitor this on a daily basis, and will of course communicate to you if we have to implement any further safety measures in addition to any we currently have in place. My recommendation to all students currently, is that they ensure they are testing twice a week at home and that they consider wearing face coverings in corridors (although this is not compulsory) when moving to and from lessons.

I would also like to draw your attention to a national media story currently getting some coverage, around the inappropriate use of the social media platform, TikTok. Unfortunately, a current TikTok theme is to post edited videos and pictures of school based staff, alongside comments. We are aware of some that are in existence that implicate staff at the Academy. I would like to state that this is not acceptable and all examples of these will be reported.

Can I please ask that you check your child's social media activity, and support them with using these platforms appropriately and safely. We will make you aware if it comes to our attention that your child has either created or interacted with one of these in appropriate accounts in question. TikTok's terms and conditions do state that users should be over the age of 13.

Many thanks for your anticipated support

Mr B Pearce  
Principal