

Dear all Parents & Carers,

I hope this email finds you all safe and well.

I would like to firstly provide you with an update on our current Covid cases in school and how we are currently managing any in-school infections. Our overall numbers remain low and are not confined to a particular year group. We still have enhanced cleaning regimes in place across the school site, and we continue to advise students to maintain good hand hygiene and wear a face covering if they wish in corridor spaces between lessons.

Our community testing and vaccinations rates do remain low however, and we have been asked by the Local Authority to try and support with increasing the rates of these. In terms of testing, we are looking into a 'Supervised Self-Testing' system in school, where students complete their twice weekly Lateral Flow Tests in school and supervised, rather than at home. We are very early in the planning stages for this and will communicate to you once this programme gets underway.

The Local Authority have firstly asked us to share this link with you:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-schools/covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-young-people-guidance-for-parents>

They have also asked us to share a link to how you can get your child booked into their vaccination if you wish:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

We have also been looking at our current screening provision for students who may be at risk of dyslexia. Currently, we only have a screening provision in school which indicates a 'risk' (which can be 'strongly at risk' for example) for dyslexia. I would like to stress that this does not confirm a 'diagnosis' of dyslexia. Currently, if we feel that a child needs a full diagnosis analysis, we would pay for this enhanced service. We are looking at implementing this system full-time at the school.

For any student in Key Stage 3 who has been screened, and come out as at risk - from Monday 29th November, we are going to start supporting them to use an overlay for any additional materials that those students need to access. If they wish, they can still have access to exercise books with their familiar colour paper within it. An overlay is a sustainable and easily accessible tool which students can have immediate access to, to support visual stress. Over time, we will look to implement enhanced screening for any child who is 'strongly at risk'. All students in Key Stage 4 will continue to work with their current access arrangements if they have previously been screened as 'at risk'.

Finally, I would like to remind Year 11 Parents & Carers of the Parents Evening next week, held on Tuesday from 4:00pm - 6:30pm. Please note that this evening is being held remotely, and you will need to refer to previous communication regards this, on how to book your appointments with your child's teachers. During this evening, we will share results of your child's recent mock exams and how we can work together to support your child to move forward and maximise their potential.

As always, many thanks for your continued support

Mr B Pearce
Principal