

08 March 2022

Dear all Parents & Carers

I hope you are all safe and well, as we approach the half-way point to this half-term.

I would firstly like to provide our stance on supporting the current news stories around the conflict in Ukraine. My view is that as a school we have a duty of care to support students with responding to questions they may have around the conflict and reassuring them if they appear worried or concerned about related consequences from the conflict. We have received advice and guidance from the Department for Education on how to respond, and we will be following this guidance if any students do ask about the conflict. There is also guidance available for parents & carers, if your child wishes to discuss this with you at home. We feel the best advice, if you wish to use it, is from the Mental Health Foundation, and can be found here:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/talking-to-your-children-scary-world-news>

As you will know, we have 3 Mufti-Days a year, where the students can wear their own clothes in return for a donation to a chosen charity. They are always on the last day of a full-term. For the Mufti-Day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April, we will be donating our proceeds to the victims of the Ukraine conflict.

Some of you may also be aware of suspicious activity in the local area, regarding a white van and a man, that was reported to the police the other week. Throughout this process we liaised with the local police and had additional staff on duty at the end of the school day on Reeves Way to support this. The Cambridgeshire Constabulary have asked me to pass on the following message to you:

***'We are aware of information that was circulated on social media last week about a person in a white van acting suspiciously around schools in Peterborough. The vehicle and its owner were identified, located and spoken with, as well as the person who reported the initial concern, as part of an investigation and no offences were identified. We believe the information circulating on social media was taken out of context and differs from the initial report to police.'***

Before the end of the half-term we are due to have a team from Vaccinations UK in, to deliver vaccinations against Meningitis. I am making you aware of this, as the vaccinations team have made it clear that if they do not have parental consent, they will seek the consent of the child if they are deemed Gillick competent. My advice to you would be to firstly ensure you have spoken to your child about having the vaccination (the nurse team will support this via an assembly with the students prior to the vaccination) and then provide your consent as you see fit.

The following information from Vaccinations UK, may be helpful for you:

The Meningitis ACWY vaccination helps to protect students against four types of meningococcal bacteria (groups A, C, W and Y) that can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain) and septicaemia (blood poisoning). These diseases are very serious and can be fatal in some cases, especially if not diagnosed early. Eligible students will be offered the Meningitis ACWY vaccine routinely along with the DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio) booster. For more information, please click on the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

Where someone aged 16 or 17 years consents to vaccination, a parent cannot override that consent. Young people who understand fully what is involved in the proposed procedure (referred to as 'Gillick competent') can also give consent, although ideally their parents will be involved. If a Gillick-competent child consents to treatment, a parent cannot override that consent. If the health professional giving the immunisation felt a child was not Gillick competent then the consent of someone with parental responsibility would be sought.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/994850/PHE\\_Greenbook\\_of\\_immunisation\\_chapter\\_2\\_consent\\_18\\_June21.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994850/PHE_Greenbook_of_immunisation_chapter_2_consent_18_June21.pdf)

As always, if you have any questions regarding any matter, then please do hesitate to contact us at the Academy

Kind Regards

Mr B Pearce  
Principal