

**Waverley School**  
311 Yardley Green Road  
Bordesley Green East  
Birmingham  
B9 5QA  
**Tel:** 0121 566 6600  
**Fax:** 0121 566 6601  
**Email:** enquiry@waverley.bham.sch.uk  
**Web:** www.waverley.bham.sch.uk



14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

The end of a year always brings about reflection and a time of looking back at the achievements of the last few months. It certainly has been very busy term during which we have worked tirelessly to provide the best provision that we can. Our staff and students have made us proud and have remained resilient, positive and engaged, even when we have battled with illness and absence.

Our drive to strengthen teaching and learning continues; all staff have worked hard on building on approaches to classroom practice and reducing learning gaps to enable student progress. This term has focussed not only on keeping high quality teaching and learning provision sustained in school, but also on carrying out important assessments and progress checks.

It has been lovely to see that we have been able to carry out a range of after school clubs and activities as well as opportunities to broaden educational experiences through school visits and trips. Our students have represented us incredibly well on school visits and external agencies and visitors who come into school to work with our students have commented on the polite and respectful manner that our students have conducted ourselves in. We are always very proud of our students.

One comment that we would like to share with you is from Dr Deborah Youndell, a researcher from the University of Birmingham, who interviewed some students as part of a university research project that we are participating in. She said about the students afterwards: 'They were impressively communicative, mature beyond their years and engaged.' This is very pleasing feedback and one of many positive comments made about our students when visitors work with them in school.

We have also held a number of events for parents this term. I have personally found these events some of the highlights of the term. From the face-to-face year 11 'Prepare to Perform' evening in October 2021 and the Relationships and Sex Education information sessions on Youtube to the year 9 and year 10 parent consultation evenings in school, it has been great to welcome parents back into school. I have aimed to talk to as many parents as possible during face-to-face events, and I have very much enjoyed talking with you. I am equally very appreciative of the support that you have given to the school in the role that we play in educating your child to be ready for life after school and adulthood.

I would like to share with you some of the key information updates and events from this term and for the next term:

### **Diversity Week 13<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 'Celebrating difference and diversity'**

14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> December is Diversity Week and our theme is 'Celebrating Difference and Diversity', which encompasses our school ethos and values. Students and staff are exploring themes including religion, ethnicity, gender and disability. We are warmly welcoming and are very excited to meet two guest speakers in school on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December to talk to all year groups about their life journeys and to inspire: Ayaz

Bhuta: Paralympic Gold Medallist and Wheelchair Rugby Athlete and Ikram Butt: First British Muslim to play rugby for England and has also set up the British Asian Rugby Association.

### **Christmas Jumper Day Charity Event on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021- Thank You for your Generosity**

The students took part in Christmas jumper day raising funds for 'Save the Children' and ACEF (I sent a letter to you last week about this charity) by wearing a Christmas jumper or something red, green, gold, silver or sparkly. The money raised filled a very big box and we will combine both the primary phase and secondary and sixth form phases' money. We will let you know how much we raised in the new year. Thank you again for your generosity.

### **Christmas Concert on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

It was delightful to welcome parents and families to our Christmas concert last week. I am very proud of the performance and the hard work leading to the event. Our students were very professional and we have some very talented musicians and singers. Thank you to Ms Harding and Mr Abley for their lead in arranging the event.

### **Pre-Public Examinations (PPE-mocks) Years 11 and 13**

Moving onto other matters, I want to congratulate year 11 and 13 for their very mature and committed approach to their PPEs in November 2022. They have been receiving results and feedback from their teachers and I encourage all students to work hard on improving any areas of weakness and in closing any learning gaps.

PPE exams have three main aims. The first is to interrupt what we call the "forgetting curve" - the natural way in which learned information fades from memory if you do not revisit it regularly. PPEs interrupt this process by giving students opportunities to retrieve this information and thereby consolidate their understanding. The second is to practise the process of revising for, and taking exams. The third is for teachers and students to work out where they are, and what to do next to be successful in the final exams.

Both year groups have shown focus and drive throughout the PPE process. It has been good to see how they have been focusing on what they need to do to be ready for the next set of PPEs in March 2022 and the final exams from May 2022. With their current attitudes, we very much hope that both year groups do well. Please encourage your child in year 11 and/or year 13 to work hard and make the most of every lesson in school and study time out of school for the last few months of their studies.

Year 11 and 13 will receive their official grades very soon in a formal handing out with results sealed in an envelope, so they know what to expect in August 2022 on results day.

We have two hardworking year groups in years 11 and 13. Please can parents and carers encourage their children to get the right balance of study and rest over the Christmas holidays- too much of either is not ideal, and it is important that they look after their wellbeing whilst aiming high in their revision and studies.

### **Ofsted Inspection in September 2021**

The above leads well into a significant event for us in September, which led to the 'Good' grading that we received after the full inspection across all measures.



I have been principal for 12 months and I was Head of School of the Secondary and Sixth Form phase for 12 months before. I have worked at Waverley school within the senior leadership team for 11 years. The hard work and dedication of the staff over the last few years in focussing on setting very high expectations of behaviour, attitudes and learning has brought about well-embedded changes, which mean that Ofsted in their forensic probing could see what we were trying to achieve and were achieving.

Straight after the inspection I did congratulate staff, however in the same presentation I said that we never rest on our laurels. I will not allow our school improvement work to stop and we will continue to work hard to ensure that we are delivering the best education that we can to our students. Our journey of school improvement for me is always 'work in progress'. No public institution is perfect and no public institution is without areas to get better in, and we are no different.

### **Covid-19 Updates Affecting Waverley School**

I will now present some Covid-19 updates, including government requests and directives, that affect Waverley School.

#### **Twice weekly LFD testing of students at home during the school holidays**

Please do continue to support us to keep the school as safe as possible by enabling your child/children who is/are our secondary and sixth form students to complete two lateral flow tests a week whilst off school, and to carry out a LFD test before they return to school on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Start of term LFD testing on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (new term day 1)**

The government is asking all secondary schools and colleges to carry out the LFD testing on site at the start of the new term, as we have done before. Testing will take place on Wednesday 5th January as students return. Please can you complete the consent form, which is located here if you consent for your child to be tested:

[Link to the consent form for LFD testing in the new term](#)

#### **Wearing face masks and face coverings in communal places in school to protect everyone- please support us to protect the most medically vulnerable students and staff and our school community**

We have already given out 3000 masks to students over the last 3 weeks and only have a limited stock. It is very costly to order and give out masks each day. Please can you supply a mask to your child each day from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022, so we can retain our limited stock for emergency use.

I have to say that it has been harder to re-instate this measure amongst students, which is a recommendation from the government to mitigate against viral spread. We have a number of medically vulnerable adults and students who work in school and who wear masks. We are asking for your support in asking your child to bring a mask to school and to wear it in our communal spaces.

We are a caring community and I highly encourage all people to wear masks in communal spaces in school to support us to prevent disease spread, and to also consider our most medically vulnerable staff and students, who will feel a lot safer when everyone complies with the request. We know that no one measure prevents a virus from spreading; however, with the new Omicrom variant at large and the Delta variant still in circulation, we should all be responsible in doing what we can to support each other.

The government has passed on information to schools for our stakeholders and our community, so we are passing this information to you about daily testing and vaccinations- PLEASE FIND THIS INFORMATION PASTED AT THE END OF THE LETTER.

### **Free School Meal (FSM) Vouchers issue by Birmingham City Council**

The council has informed us that the FSM vouchers for the Christmas period will be issued from 17<sup>th</sup> December through the same channel as previous rounds.

### **Last Day Arrangements and the New Term Start Date and Time**

The autumn term ends on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Secondary and Sixth Form students will have brunch in school before they are dismissed at 12:30pm.

The new terms starts on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at the normal time. Students are expected to attend school on time and to be ready in their year group line up by 8:25am (years 7-11) or attending the sixth form building (years 12-13). Students in years 7-11 are expected to be wearing their full uniform and to be equipped with their school bag, planner and stationery.

### **School Uniform and Taking Pride in Looking Smart**

Students should wear their uniform with pride and the vast majority do. High standards of uniform set the right tone and create the right mind-set for effective learning. Pride in one's appearance is very important. To that end, please ensure your child attends every day, wearing the correct uniform, identity badge and lanyards, suitable footwear and with an appropriate haircut. Your child should have a suitable outdoor waterproof coat. Your child must not bring jewellery or valuable items into school. Please also read our policy on mobile phones, which is on our school website. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Staff Farewells**

As the year comes to an end, we have to say goodbye to Mr Ali who will be leaving us. On behalf of all the staff we thank him for all his work and his contribution to the English Faculty, the Inclusion Faculty and the work with our SEND students and Waverley School – he will be missed. We wish him well in his new role.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a safe and merry festive period and look forward to welcoming back all of our students and their families in January 2022.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Lloyd  
Principal - Secondary and Sixth Form Phase

## **Covid-19: Government Information Shared by the Department of Education**

### **Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19**

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep students in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, students and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the Online Reporting System and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the Sunday 12 December press release. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and order a PCR test to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.

### **Update on COVID-19 vaccinations**

The new Omicron COVID-19 variant is spreading fast. Anyone who is unvaccinated or who hasn't had their booster is at even greater risk from COVID-19 and more serious illness. Vaccines are the best way we can protect ourselves and help keep children and young people in face-to-face education.

People aged 18 years and over, and those aged 16 years and over who are at risk (including health and social care workers) will be offered a booster dose of coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. Please do encourage those in your settings to take up the booster dose.

You can pre-book your booster dose online if it's been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose and you are:

- aged 30 and over
- aged 16 and over with a health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19
- a frontline health or social care worker

You will be offered appointment dates from 3 months after the date of your 2nd dose.

16 and 17 year olds can get two doses of the COVID vaccine. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and walk in centres are available.

The Health and Social Care Secretary announced on Monday 29 November that young people aged 12 to 15 in England will be offered a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, following advice from JCVI. Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot over the winter break via the national booking system.

Information on vaccination for 12 to 15 year olds can be found in the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12 to 15 guidance.

Further information on the coronavirus booster vaccination and booking a vaccination can be found on NHS.UK: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>