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4th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

I hope that this letter finds you well.

Happy New Year to everyone.

We look forward to welcoming pupils in all year groups back to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at the normal time. Pupils 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, pupil planner and stationery. We will be carrying out LFD tests on all pupils who have consent from parents and carers - please see the link below if you have not yet given consent to this important virus prevention measure.

Important Messages for the Beginning of Term including:

1. COVID-19 prevention measures and government policy in schools from 4th January 2022
2. Year 11 and 13 examinations in May and June 2022
3. 5th January pupil induction programme

Face coverings- wearing of masks/face coverings in communal spaces and classrooms from Wednesday 5th January 2021 for pupils in years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

Please support the school to mitigate against viral infection by providing a face covering/mask to your child and/or children in the secondary and sixth form phases each day. We have a limited number of emergency stock masks and ask all parents/carers to check each morning that children have their face coverings ready for the working day.

- Face coverings help protect the wearer and others against the spread of infection because they cover the nose and mouth, which are the main confirmed sources of transmission of COVID-19.
- From 4 January 2022, the government requests and recommends that pupils in year 7- 13 should wear face coverings/mask in classrooms and learning spaces This is a temporary measure. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.
- Where pupils in year 7 (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021) and above are educated, the government also recommends that face coverings/masks should be worn by pupils, students, staff and adult visitors when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors, the canteen and communal areas. This will also be a temporary measure.

- Pupils and students must also wear a face covering/ a mask when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.
- In primary schools, the government recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff, adults, and those aged over 11 (including visitors) when moving around in corridors and communal areas. Health advice continues to be that children in primary schools should not be asked to wear face coverings and they can wear them if they choose to.

At the moment the government has said that the advice and requests on face coverings in classrooms will be in place until the 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

Start of term LFD testing on 5th January 2022 (new term day 1) and twice weekly testing at home from 4th January 2022

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 2022 as pupils return. Please can you complete the consent form, which is located here if you consent for your child to be tested (one for per child):

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

I highly encourage all parents and carers to consent to keep the school as safe as possible.

From 4th January 2022 the government asks that all pupils and staff in schools carry out twice weekly LFD tests at home. We will be distributing boxes of LFD testing kits to pupils to take home.

Face-to-face provision, workforce and operational matters

You will have seen and heard in the national news that up to 25% of public sector workers could be affected by COVID-19 absence including the school sector workforce. You will also know from my regular communication to you that we were affected, as many schools were before the Christmas break, by staff absence due to sickness. I always want to level with you and staff absence put pressure on us to maintain full face-to- face provision. It has been increasingly difficult to recruit supply teachers to cover absence as there is a serious shortage. The situation could get worse in January before it gets better, yet I hope that this is not the case. Staff worked very hard in November and December to maintain the best high quality in-school provision. I and my staff will do everything that we can to continue in-school provision for all our pupils on site from 4th January 2022.

The Secretary of State for Education wrote to schools on 2nd January 2022 and has advised a flexible approach to delivery and learning in relation to the school workforce and the operational challenges that covid-related absence may cause. Flexible delivery involves utilising our available teaching and non-teaching workforce to maximise on-site education for as many pupils as possible while allowing us to flexibly deliver provision either on-site or remotely to some pupils. We may have to combine classes. We may have to return to remote provision for some pupils. If we must implement any of the options, they will be a short-term measure, we will always endeavour not to disrupt the on-site education of examination year groups (years 11 and 13) and our most vulnerable pupils, and we will always return to full-time in-person attendance for all pupils as soon as practicable. As always, we will communicate to you as soon as possible via ParentMail and our website if we must sadly make any such decisions.

COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters

You can pre-book your booster dose online if it has been 2 months (61 days) since you had your 2nd dose

16- and 17-year-olds can get two doses of the COVID vaccine and a booster if they have had the vaccines. They can book an appointment through the national booking service and walk in centres are available.

Parents of children aged 12-15 that have not yet had their first vaccine can book their child's first vaccination slot 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:

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

Walk-in vaccination centres are also open to all the above categories of people without an appointment. You can find out your local centre from this link:

[NHS Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)

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/>

Changes to the self-isolation period

Since Wednesday 22nd December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under five, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and the person does not have a high temperature, they may end their self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

Examinations for years 11 and 13 and set to happen in May and June 2022

The work of teaching and preparing pupils in years 11 and 13 for their terminal exams from May 2022 continues and pupils should continue to work hard to be ready for the summer exams. In school we continue to carry out assessment and every lesson counts towards exam success.

To be successful, pupils must do all they can to work hard in lessons, to attend school if well and to carry out home learning and study. In previous communications I have given advice to parents and carers relating to study and learning for these exams and I reiterate a key message here about regular review of learning as part of a long-term revision programme that your child will need to organise each week:

Year 11 and year 13 have been taught how to make 'life timetables', to support organising self-study time over a longer period. We know that pupils are far more likely to feel overwhelmed or demotivated if there is too much left to do at the end of the course, so daily reviews of learning and revision are the key to improve memory retention of lots of facts and information needed for exam success and to be mentally in control of exam readiness. Last minute cramming is the most unsuccessful way to prepare for exams.

We will continue to teach and model to years 11 and 13 the best research proven ways to learn and prepare for exams. We have provided a large number of resources to exam year groups including revision guides, workbooks, exam practice materials, cue cards, sample 'life study' timetables, knowledge organisers, highlighters, post-its and so on. We will continue to do so.

5th January 2022 Pupil Induction Programme

On the first day back after each school holiday we always (re)teach important information to keep themselves safe, to conduct themselves well following our school values of humanity, equality, aspiration and respect (HEAR) and to enter the right mind-set to work hard and to learn well.

For the first part of the day the pupils will follow a programme which includes

- Reiteration of our behaviour policy and
- Learning about safety, safeguarding and the law relating to internet usage, drugs, alcohol and weapons
- For exam year groups, work centred on wellbeing and being mentally prepared for the months to come

Finally, I wish you well over the coming week. I advise regularly checking ParentMail and the school website for operational updates and I will communicate to you any updates as they arise.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Lloyd
Principal - Secondary and Sixth Form Phase



Waverley
School
Learning through diversity