

24th September, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

## **Parental update 72**

September seems to be flying by far too quickly – where do the weeks go?! Another one has hurtled past us and I find myself putting together another *Update* – albeit a slightly shorter one than usual.

### Covid vaccinations

The NHS School-based Vaccinations team have asked me to pass on the following message to you.

*“Dear Parents/carers*

*“This autumn all children aged 12 to 15 years are being offered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.*

*“Vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 within schools. The COVID-19 vaccination programme in secondary schools will therefore provide protection to children who are vaccinated and help to reduce disruption to face to face education this winter.*

*“Please click on the below to see further information from the Immunisation team and access your child’s electronic consent form.*

*“We kindly request you could complete this before Midnight Sunday 26/09/2021 to support campaign planning*

*“<https://forms.mersecare.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination/>”*

As I mentioned in last week’s *Update*, the vaccinations team have stated that no student would be vaccinated against their parents’ wishes.

### Key Stage 4 Assemblies

This half-term, Dr Silverstone has been addressing some of the issues arising from the *#Everyone’s Invited* campaign with boys in Years 10 and 11 in Friday Assemblies. You may remember that *#Everyone’s Invited* was covered extensively in the media earlier this year, as over 50,000 young people spoke about the sexual harassment, sexual assault (and worse) that they had experienced in schools, Colleges and Universities. A subsequent investigation by Ofsted confirmed that such behaviour is endemic in schools.

As a school, we seek to educate our students to become the people God intended them to be. In this context, that means talking to them about this endemic behaviour – and why it is so deeply abhorrent. Dr Silverstone’s assemblies are addressing these issues. Please could I ask you to take the opportunity to talk to your son about what Dr Silverstone has said? Thank you!

If your son has been, or is, affected by any of these issues as they are discussed, please don’t hesitate to let us know so that the appropriate support can be put in place.

We’re also addressing the issue with post-16 and Key Stage 3 students too; there’ll be more details about this work in a future *Update*.

Dr Silverstone writes...

*“You may remember that during lockdown I shared details of the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service’s (CAHMS’) ‘bitesize training programme’ that was running via Zoom. Please be aware that this programme of events is still in place. CAMHS say it is designed to ‘educate and empower professionals, parents and carers as we all strive to improve the knowledge and understanding of mental health among children and young people.’ The calendar of events is available [here](#). Future topics include social media and mental health, self-harm, managing teen worry and adolescent brain development. In my experience, these sessions are well delivered and offer a forum to ask questions – well worth attending if you are able.”*

Parental updates


We originally started writing home every week back in March 2020, as a way of keeping in touch during the periods when school was not open to all students. However the need for *weekly* updates has reduced a little this term, and in the parental survey last term a fair proportion of respondents felt that fortnightly communications could be more appropriate.

We’ll therefore pilot fortnightly *Updates* starting from next week. There’ll be an *Update* on 1st October, and then another on 15th October – and for the remainder of this term, we’ll write home every other school week. A decision about next term will then be made in the light of experience...!

Finally...

September may be whizzing past us, but I hope that time slows down for you and your family this weekend – so we have time to rest, relax, and recharge for our next week of learning together.

Yours faithfully



Stephen Brierley  
Principal.