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Wednesday 22 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope and trust that you and your family are well. We are writing to update you with information about the [COVID-19 vaccination programme](#) for young people aged 12 to 15, and to share some information with you regarding [home asymptomatic testing](#), and [COVID-19 cases in school](#).

Nasal Flu and COVID-19 vaccines

Since our letter of [2 September](#), HM Government have announced that young people aged 12 to 15 years old, are now eligible to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. This decision follows advice from the UK's chief medical officers that rolling out the vaccine to this age group will help reduce disruption for young people receiving face-to-face education. We are writing to you today to inform you how schools are expected to support the UK Health Security Agency's vaccination programme, namely by:

- Providing details of students on roll to the local NHS' School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) provider so they know which children are eligible for the vaccine.
- Sharing this [information leaflet](#) from Public Health England (PHE), consent form and invitation letter with our parents, carers, and guardians.
- Providing space at the school for the vaccination programme to take place and allowing for time away from the timetable where needed to enable vaccines to be administered.

The programme will be delivered by the NHS-commissioned SAIS team, which may involve nurses, healthcare support workers, administrative staff, and other associated professionals who specialise in the delivery of school age vaccinations. The vaccines will be administered by healthcare professionals with appropriate qualifications, following the usual approach to school-based immunisation. The SAIS will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme for healthy 12- to 15-year-olds (students in years 8-11, and students in Y7 if their birthday is before 22 September) and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine, not the College. The SAIS team has also been asked by HM Government to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine alongside the nasal flu vaccination programme.

We have been in regular contact with Directors of Public Health and the SAIS team and are able to confirm that the **nasal flu and COVID-19 vaccinations will be provided on-site at the College by the SAIS team on Thursday and Friday 14 and 15 October 2021**. We want to reassure you that as a school we will not make any decisions about your child's vaccination. Moreover, the SAIS team have confirmed with us in writing, and verbally, that they 'will not be vaccinating children without a positive consent form being completed by a parent/guardian', and if there are discrepancies between a child and parental view, they 'will call parents away from the [in school] vaccination session and arrange for vaccination to be caught up *if required*' at a vaccination centre on a different date.

Consent as to whether your child takes up the offer of a vaccine or not will be gained via e-consent in the usual way as for all SAIS vaccination programmes. The SAIS team will provide us with letters in the coming weeks to disseminate to you regarding consent. You can find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to 12 to 15 year-olds via the UK Health Security Agency's [guidance for parents](#). You may also find Public Health England's [guide for eligible children and young people aged 12 to 17](#) useful, and you can access further information [here](#). Should you wish to speak to a member of the SAIS support team, please do not hesitate to contact them on 0300 2470082. And of course, if there is anything you feel we may be able to help with here at the College, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Asymptomatic Home Testing

As you are aware we have now tested all students (with consent) twice on-site since our return to school. To help identify any cases promptly and continue to minimise the risk of coronavirus transmission, students should continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when HM Government will review this advice. We will be issuing more LFD home self-test kits on Thursday 23 September to all students. We will also be able to support any student unable to self-test at home through testing at our Asymptomatic Testing Site here in the College.

Please ensure that you report the results of your child(ren)'s home LFD test to the NHS, [via this link](#), and to us at the College via [this link](#). If your child tests positive we would also request that you [complete this short online form](#), in order to help prepare you for contact from NHS Test and Trace, and to help us support if required. Please also see our [COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#), section 3, pages 5-6, for information about the actions you should take if your child(ren) tests positive via the LFD home test kit. If you require further information, clarification, or support regarding home testing, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the College

Since returning to school, we have been made aware of 9 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the College. Some of these cases were confirmed from tests taken later in the summer break. As you are aware, NHS Test and Trace now work with any person who has tested positive, or parent/carers if it is a younger student, to identify individuals who have been in close contact, and to advise accordingly. (Note that if you ever believe that your child is a close contact of a person who has tested positive, but you have not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace, please follow [this guidance](#).)

We appreciate that you may find this concerning but are writing to reassure you that we remain vigilant, continue to monitor the situation closely, and liaise with directors of Public Health and the South West Health Protection Team as necessary. Whilst our students should continue to attend school as normal, we want to ensure that you are informed, are aware of appropriate advice on how to continue to support your child, and are reassured that the safety of our students is paramount. To this end, further to the measures we are currently implementing (see sections 1.3 and 4.3 of our [COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#)), we would be very grateful for your support in reiterating [Public Health advice](#) with your child(ren) for people to continue to stay safe and help prevent the spread of coronavirus, by:

- Getting vaccinated.
- Wearing a face covering when it's hard to stay away from others, particularly indoors or in crowded places, such as school or public transport, and in the College corridors and communal areas.

- Participating in twice weekly asymptomatic LFD testing.
- Washing hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing, putting used tissues in the bin immediately, and washing your hands afterwards.
- Opening doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside.
- Self-isolating immediately and [arranging a PCR test](#) if you have symptoms (high temperature, new and continuous cough, or change of your usual sense of taste or smell) or test positive from an asymptomatic LFD test.
- Self-isolating if told to do so by NHS Test and Trace.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support. Again, please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information, clarification, advice, or support.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins. The signature of Craig Griffiths is on the left, and the signature of Rebecca Mullins is on the right.

Craig Griffiths and Rebecca Mullins
(Associate Principals).