



8 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well and you are managing the transition to Autumn weather successfully. Thank you for the brilliant support in providing students with winter coats which allows us to maintain our outdoor environments. It is appreciated.

I am pleased to also report that the mitigations we introduced last week as an early response to a slight increase in positive Covid cases have been effective. We also very much appreciate the positive and constructive approaches taken by parents to test and communicate with us effectively. It really is a strong community effort that is helping to ensure students are able to stay well and continue with their learning.

There are a number of updates in this letter which require you to think and act on options available to you. Please do take the time to read the information and reflect as a family, let us know if you need any support.

Importance of LFD Testing

We are asking parents to encourage their children to test regularly. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents to encourage their children to test twice a week and help us to keep the College open. Do let us know if you have not received the test kits you require.

Vaccinations:

Please read the following carefully and be clear about the different immunisation programmes available and their respective closing dates.

Nasal Spray Influenza Vaccination for Years 7-11:

The general Influenza nasal spray vaccination consent letter and information went out earlier this week and are being held on the 18 October. We have been requested to send a reminder to you advising you that the closing date is now Monday 11 October prior to 11am. You will need a code to complete this which can be found in [this letter](#) sent previously.



Distinguished
School



National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme for 12 to 15-year olds:

You may be aware that the COVID-19 vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15-year olds (Year 8-11 only) in the UK consists of one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The vaccine is to be offered to pupils in schools as part of the national COVID-19 vaccination plan. We now have confirmation that the College is able to make this available to consenting participants on **Thursday 4 November**.

We have been in dialogue with the Public Health Teams on the how and why of this distribution. The attached letter offers all the details of how to give consent and some FAQs. I would like to make clear:

- No student will be offered the vaccine where consent has not been given or it is not a unanimous family decision.
- Like most other vaccines given in school time, the process will be run by the Sussex Immunisation Service, no College staff will be involved in the process.
- No judgement will be made by the College whether a student takes up the offer of a vaccine or not.

After half term we will be able to give you more detail about how this will work in practice for those who have given consent once details have been confirmed with the vaccination team.

Uniform Expectations

It is important that students are very clear about our high expectations regarding uniform as with all aspects of College life and that we will uphold all of these rigorously. It is not a complicated or complex uniform and we expect students to wear it correctly. The vast majority of students do this and are commended for it. In noting reminders here, I do so in part for the very small minority who need to adjust their habits but also so that the majority know we do act when we need to, ensuring equity and fairness.

I would ask that a reminder is given that skirts should be worn at the recommended length, not rolled or tied shorter. It is obvious to the eye, it does get picked up and will be logged such that parents can see on Firefly. This has an impact on the overall House Points and if cumulative will lead to further consequences. Please do contact us if you are struggling to source suitable items or consider contacting the excellent [Heathfield CC Preloved Uniform by SOHCC](#)

Super Curricular fortnight

We know that the more learning students do outside of their taught lessons the more successful they are, stimulating an enjoyment of learning and broader understanding that stays with them for life.

Super Curricular fortnight starts on 18th October. Students engage in activities in subjects outside the classroom. These are all created by our fantastic teaching staff to further engage and inspire students in their subjects. All activities are detailed in Firefly under Subjects and students opt to do as many as they would like, receiving House points for taking part. GCSE students try subjects they are not currently studying to continue interest outside of their examination courses.

This term students could create a photo walk, discuss the petrol crisis or draw with inspiration of Autumn. There are so many to choose from that we know students will enjoy this experience. There will be a task set on Firefly with a summary video for students to help them pick an activity. We look forward to seeing what they contribute.

Local Events of Interest:

- Local Coding and Electronics Camp available at Half Term
- Parenting Programmes Guide
- Adult Learning courses with Acres

College Events and Student Achievements on Facebook and Latest News:

- World Mental Health Day supporting “Heads On” local charity.
- Megan Smith Gold Medallist in Women’s Artistic Gymnastics.
- College re-designated as Apple Distinguished School for innovative use of Technology.
- Open Evening saw students leading tours, speaking to parents and guiding Year 6 students in each subject.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 11 October - Wednesday 20 October	Open Mornings continue for Year 6 students and parents only. Please ensure that you book a place on a tour as places are limited. Deadline for applications to Year 7 - 31 October 2021
Monday 11 October	11am - Deadline for giving consent for Influenza Nasal Spray (Years 7 - 11)
Thursday 14 October	Year 7, 12 & 13 Tutor Evening
Saturday 16 October	Pre-loved Uniform Pop Up Shop at Heathfield Farmers Market
Monday 18 October	Year 7 - 11 Influenza Nasal Spray vaccination Super Curricular Fortnight (Week 1)
Thursday 21 October	Year 7 Sussex Safer Roads presentation Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 22 October	Sixth Form Think Pink Day End of Term 1
Monday 1 November	Term 2 Begins
Thursday 4 November	Covid Vaccinations (Years 8 - 11)

Thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely



MS C BARLOW
Headteacher