



19 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 including testing and plans for the vaccination of healthy 12 to 15 year olds, JCVI advice on second doses of the COVID-19 vaccination for 16 to 17 year olds, Year 9 parents' evening, PD, careers and enrichment bulletin, Bike safety, Meadow Lane safety petition, Uniform donations

I hope my letter this week finds you well as we creep ever closer to the festive season.

This week has felt somewhat like a watershed moment as we were able to take 52 youngsters in Year 11 to the University of Lincoln to experience a lecture on examination stress. I am sure they benefitted from the experience and it is testament to our partnership that this was possible.

We are coming to an end of the Year 13 mock examination period and about to enter into the same with Year 11 very soon. With this in mind, I spent some delightful time this week interviewing prospective sixth formers which was wonderful. Our youngsters really are top notch!

Covid-19 including testing and plans for the vaccination of healthy 12 to 15 year olds and home testing kits

We continue to encourage twice weekly testing at home on Wednesdays and Sundays using home LFT kits. I was incredibly disappointed that the SAIS did not visit us this week to administer our covid vaccinations. I shared my frustrations with them. It would appear that the immediate change in policy is due to changes in national policy. I can confirm that the SAIS team have informed me they will be returning to the Academy on Tuesday 23 November.

Advice on the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination for under-18 year olds

This week, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advised that [all healthy 16 to 17 year olds should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine](#) at least 12 weeks after the first vaccine dose, or 12 weeks following a positive COVID-19 test result – whichever is later. To be consistent with this advice, the clinical guidance has also been updated by the UK Health Security Agency to recommend that young people aged 12-17 who are not in a high-risk group should wait 12 weeks after a positive COVID-19 infection before getting their first vaccine dose. This is a change from previous advice that vaccination should be deferred for around 4 weeks after confirmed infection.

This change has been recommended by experts as an extra precautionary measure to further minimise the chance of any side effects. Serious side effects from the vaccine for children are extremely rare.

Anyone under 18 who has already received a vaccine within 12 weeks of having a COVID-19 infection is highly unlikely to feel a detrimental effect, but anyone who is concerned should be reassured that these side effects occur within a few days of vaccination. Young people who received the vaccine in the past few days should continue to follow the advice in the “what to expect after vaccination” leaflet received at the time of vaccination.

School-aged immunisation service (SAIS) teams are beginning to apply this change, with pupils being asked to confirm whether they have had a confirmed COVID-19 infection in the last 12 weeks and where there is uncertainty the vaccination would not proceed. Some parents of pupils yet to be vaccinated may be asked by SAIS teams to give consent again for their child to be vaccinated in schools, based on this change.

This new advice is only for not ‘at risk’ individuals aged under 18. Anyone 18 and over or under 18 in an ‘at risk’ group should continue with the current advice to postpone their vaccination for 28 days following a prior infection.

16 and 17 year olds will not be vaccinated through the schools programme, but through vaccination centres, community pharmacies and GP led primary care network sites. The national booking service will be available from Monday 22 November for 16 and 17 year olds to book their vaccine.

Year 9 Parents’ evening

Year 9 Parents’ evening will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 1 December between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. Mr Kirk has sent out further instructions on how to book your appointments earlier today.

PD, careers and enrichment bulletin

Please find this attached along with my letter this week.



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Bike Safety

It has come to my attention that some of our students, after attending after school clubs, are cycling home in the dark with no lights on their bikes. This is quite concerning and I urge you to consider this if it applies to your child.

Meadow Lane safety petition

We have been approached by local interested parties with regard to the following petition to make Meadow Lane safer given the recent spate of accidents there this year. I am happy to share this local petition with you in case it is of interest. Here is the correspondence I have received:

“Since the recent school bus accident on Meadow Lane, North Hykeham the local residents wish to make the lane safer for everyone. We regularly see the road closed due to a high number of accidents. In July this year there was sadly a fatality where a young family man lost his life. When we heard about the accident last week involving 60 school children we were extremely worried and saddened. Many of us have been contacting the council for years to ask for more safety measures to be put in place.”

Please see the full petition at [Sign the Petition](#).

Uniform donations

We are looking for donations of second hand uniform and would welcome suitable trousers, shirts, ties, blazers and PE kit. Thank you for your support with this.

We still live in testing times. While we have very low Covid-19 infections at the moment, I am alive to the temperatures dropping and the weather changing as winter draws nearer. I continue to consider our risk assessment on a weekly basis. It is incumbent upon us to hold our nerve and continue to offer the best education we can, even in times which will go down in history as significant events. My quote this week is from Martin Luther King who said “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

MLK was clearly writing in a different epoch and about differing themes but the sentiment remains in our present day. We are far from out of the woods and I continue to urge caution in relation to the pandemic. What I will add is this; I have never been so impressed by a group of young people as I am right now with my student body and the atmosphere around the Academy exemplifies their good manners, kindness and humour.



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Finally, my staff team deserve a mention and some real credit. They continue to do you proud in challenging circumstances, often not improved by national policy. I thank them here publicly because they truly are making a significant difference this academic year because they believe in your youngsters and our mission.

Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”

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