



3 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19 including testing, community action project, PD Day, Charities Launch Non-Uniform Day, donations of second hand uniform

Welcome to my end of the week update letter. This week has felt odd as we have returned to mask wearing communally but I am pleased to say that the Academy has felt calm and purposeful nevertheless. With only two weeks until the festive break, my letter this week is a little shorter than the tome I sent you last time!

Covid-19 including testing

We continue to encourage twice weekly testing at home on Wednesdays and Sundays using home LFT kits.

It was unhelpful to receive an email from the DfE at 4.10pm last Sunday expecting an immediate implementation of mask wearing in communal areas. As we receive daily headteacher updates it would have been more useful to do this last Friday to allow for some planning time. Nevertheless, we ensured that this was in place for Monday morning and, by and large, our student body have reacted well to this imposition. I often find myself raising an eyebrow at DfE policy and this time it is no different. However, in the words of Bruce Lee "Absorb what is useful, discard what is not, add what is uniquely your own" and this approach hasn't let me down yet since the pandemic began.

However, for the small but vocal number of parents who have, yet again, slated me for introducing this measure, I am following national guidance. Had I chosen not to implement these measures and infection levels had sky rocketed I would have been criticised more broadly and rightly so. There is no perfect solution here but, sometimes, difficult decisions have to be made when running a large organisation. I realise that I cannot please everyone but I will always attempt to do what is right.

Community Action Project

This year, our Key Stage 3 house captains are leading our Community Action project. Their first event will take place on **Wednesday 8 December** during our Personal Development Day which will support those who benefit from the local foodbank as well as the elderly members of our community.

The students will be collecting for the local foodbank and they would appreciate your support in this endeavour. **We ask that students bring donations into school next Wednesday which will be collected by the foodbank on Thursday 9 December.**

We are pleased to support the work of this organisation and are aware that a number of our community members benefit from their work. Please be advised that you cannot donate perishable items or alcohol. For further guidance on suitable donations please visit the organisation's website <https://lincoln.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

During the day, our students will also be creating cards, letters, posters and self-help guides for the elderly in our community. These will be distributed to our local care homes and those identified by the local parish to be living alone within our community. We hope that these tokens will bring some joy to these individuals during the festive period.

PD Day

Next Wednesday, we will hold our second Personal Development Day of the year. Some of the themes we will be exploring are respect, with a particular focus on supporting our own community, along with our fantastic SRPA Voices sessions, where students talk about the challenges they face in the LGBTQ+ community. All of our KS3 students have opted for a choice of activities to support their wellbeing, as well as having sessions on careers and knowing themselves on our Unifrog platform. Our Year 9 will have the opportunity to explore their creative side with an art options taster sessions on printing.

In Year 10, our students are looking into gambling and addiction in more detail with sessions exploring how this can affect decision making. They will also be involved in our SRPA Question Time activity where they will debate whether the voting age should be reduced to 16. They will also be looking at elements of fiscal education, exploring wage slips amongst other key documents that they will need to be familiar with in the not too distant future.

Our Year 11 students are still in the thick of it with their mock examinations but we have provided sessions on dealing with examination stress and revision techniques. They also have the opportunity to get involved in some 'money matters' sessions too.

Finally, our Year 12 students have a day at Bishop Grosseteste University, exploring what universities have to offer, as well as looking at university finance and exploring specific subject options at degree level. The Year 13 cohort will be concentrating on interview skills, where we will be offering clinics to look at a variety of techniques to support them, as well as supporting their planning and decision making for their next steps.



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Charities Launch Non-Uniform Day

We are pleased to announce our chosen charities for this academic year which have been chosen by the students of each house:

Lancaster – Air Ambulance

Stuart – Tickled Pink

Tudor – St Barnabas

Windsor – Water Aid

York – The Nomad Trust

To launch our charity fundraising initiative, we intend to hold a **non-school uniform day on Friday 10 December**. As you may be aware, this is also 'Christmas Jumper' day and students and staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper if they wish. **The cost of participation is £1** with all proceeds being divided between our house charities.

Thank you in advance for your support with our fundraising projects. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of House.

Donations of second hand uniform

I am so grateful for the donations of second hand uniform and coats which keep coming in. Please continue to support us with this if you have some items you wish to donate.

I realise that my letters are often meaty reads, hopefully full of useful and timely updates, broad educational opinion and/or time specific changes in tack if we are in Covid-19 crisis management mode and it can perhaps feel like an assault on the senses every Friday teatime. In an attempt to leave you on a positive note I leave you with the delicious words of poet W. B. Yeats who once said "The world is full of magic things, patiently waiting for our senses to grow sharper."

I couldn't agree more. Keep smiling and have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



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