



28 January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

**Covid-19 including Plan B relaxations testing, vaccinations and an end to masks, Year 9 options week (including virtual events), Safeguarding and child protection policy, Ski trip, Personal Development Day – Wednesday 2 February, cleaning team, Parent Governor election**

Welcome to my end of week letter.

### **Covid-19 including Plan B relaxations, testing, vaccinations and an end to masks**

Yesterday signalled an end to Plan B restrictions and, in line with national guidance, we have removed the need for all staff and students to wear masks in communal spaces and classrooms. Our infections remain very low amongst the student body and we are tracking the data on a daily basis and responding accordingly. However, our infections amongst the staff body, whilst also low, often mean that I have as many staff off work as the number of children isolating. I expect this trend to continue for the next few weeks with the inevitable disruption that causes. We are far from in the dire situation some schools are in nationally though so I appreciate your support and forbearance as we navigate these issues.

We continue to encourage twice weekly testing at home on Wednesdays and Sundays using home LFT kits. This is vital to support us in keeping our academy fully functioning in the winter months whilst infection rates are still higher in the community.

The School Aged Immunisation Service still plan to visit us again to administer first and second doses of the Covid-19 vaccination on Thursday 3 February 2022. Please ensure that they have your consent in advance of the day in order for your child to receive their vaccination, if this is your wish.

### **Year 9 options week (including virtual events)**

Options week concludes today and a thank you to all parents and students who have already submitted their choices to Mr Ward's options team.

Mr Ward and Mr Kirk will lead a live Q&A next Wednesday evening as an additional supportive measure. Please use the microsite home page to sign up to this event.

## Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Our safeguarding and CP policy has been updated recently. Should you wish to view this policy please go to our website and view this under **Policies**.

## Ski trip

This trip, scheduled for February half term 2023, has already proved popular with over 150 students wishing to go on the trip! This has caught us somewhat by surprise but we are keen to help. At this time we have 40 places but we believe we are able to extend this to 75 for next year. Mr Griffiths is looking at this now.

My intention, as a result of the intense level of interest, is to look at running one trip offering 75 places next February which prioritises students in year groups which mean they only have one chance to go on this trip before leaving. The remaining places will be filled following a random ballot across all Key Stage 3 year groups.

This trip is normally bi-annual but I am now exploring whether we can run the same trip for the rest of our interested students during February 2024 so that no one misses out.

More information will follow as soon as possible once we hear from the resort.

## Personal Development Day – Wednesday 2 February

Please see below for a list of sessions for each year group:

### Year 7

Learning 2 Learn (L2L) – The power of your memory

L2L – The growth mindset and how it can help

SRPA Voices - why STEM industries are great career choice for ALL genders

British Values- What is the rule of law?

The music band OTC - Wellbeing and resilience messages

### Year 8

L2L – The power of your memory

L2L - The growth mindset and how it can help

SRPA Voices - Why STEM industries are great career choice for ALL genders

British Values – Law, Crimes and Society

The music band OTC - Wellbeing and resilience messages



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## Year 9

L2L – How to use memory journeys to improve your memory

L2L – How motivation and mind set are linked

SRPA Voices - Why STEM industries are great career choice for ALL genders

Relationships – Understanding what sexual harassment is

## Year 10

L2L - How to use memory journeys to improve your memory

L2L – How motivation and mind set are linked

SRPA Voices - Why STEM industries are great career choice for ALL genders

Macbeth Performance – Supporting year 10 GCSE English

## Year 11

L2L – Creating a learning schedule

L2L – Motivating for examination preparation

SRPA Voices - Why STEM industries are great career choice for ALL genders

Relationships – Understanding what sexual harassment is

The music band OTC - Wellbeing and resilience messages

(\*Some students will be involved in an understanding what apprenticeships can offer session)

## Year 12

Students are out on work experience. The students who were unable to secure a place on work experience will be taking part in our virtual work experience programme on site at the Academy.

## Year 13

L2L – Creating a learning schedule

L2L – Motivating for examination preparation

Fundraising: 1 Million Step Challenge

Relationships – Understanding what sexual harassment is

\*If there are sessions you are uncomfortable with your child taking part in then please contact

Mr J Griffiths at [JGriffiths@srpa.co.uk](mailto:JGriffiths@srpa.co.uk)

## Cleaning team

We have a small number of vacancies on our cleaning team which I am eager to fill. An advert is on our website along with details of how to apply and we will be putting out external adverts too. Please share this opportunity locally as you see fit please. I am always keen to provide local jobs for local people.



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

## Parent Governor election

I am pleased to say that we have had a good response to our Parent Governor vacancy, with four applications received. The appointment will be decided by parents in the form of a ballot. Further details will be sent to you shortly regarding this process.

In my view, this is the most difficult time of the pandemic for schools. This may appear to be an odd thing to say given where we have been and where we seem to be going but, with the relaxation of restriction and plateaued infections rates, absence could affect us once again if life isn't kind. Only time will tell how we fair but I hope we do so with good weather, a sprinkle of good luck and see brighter days ahead. In the words of the former US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg "So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune."

Keep smiling.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Hardy**  
**Head Teacher**



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