

Ref: GWA/LWO

17 January 2022



Dear Families

COVID Update

We begin this new week with only 5 children needing to self-isolate and no teachers. Infection rates in Tewkesbury continue to fall and the outlook is looking more promising. The Government is reviewing its COVID restrictions on January 26 and I look forward to being able to write to you next week to lift some of our mitigations at that point and in the face of further reductions in infections. In the meantime, please do encourage your children to complete and report the outcomes of twice-weekly tests.

Changes to Self-Isolation

The Government has now made changes to the required isolation period for individuals testing positive for COVID. From today, students who are self-isolating with COVID will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if your child tests negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.

Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

I have been asked by the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) to draw to your attention that there are still opportunities for youngsters aged 12-15 to receive a first vaccine. Locations across the county for drop-in vaccinations can be found [here](#). Parents should be advised that if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 they need to **wait 12 weeks** before they can have a COVID-19 vaccine. SAIS will shortly be informing schools of the timings for second vaccinations taking place in school and these will be communicated to families in due course.

.....and to the real business of school!

We were all delighted to hear last week that Y13 student, Millie Cook, has been offered a place at Oxford University to read Biomedical Science. This is an outstanding achievement and we offer Millie and her family our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

In other news, I am pleased to see a greater degree of normality slowly returning to school. Last week saw our Y10 rugby team win a close fought contest against Welland Park Academy from Leicester to move into the last 8 of the national NatWest Bowl competition - a tremendous achievement! We also hosted inter-school futsal tournaments last week which allowed many of our young people to get involved in competitive sport in a safe environment.

This week we are receiving guest lectures relating to history and medicine, Y9 students will be receiving support with maths revision from the University of Gloucestershire and representatives of the Hollie Gazzard Trust will be in school enriching PSHE lessons. Furthermore, we have drama students performing to an invited audience of primary school children and textiles students visiting the Fashion Museum in Bath. Our Duke of Edinburgh scheme is in full swing and many children benefited from expedition training last weekend. We were delighted recently to receive a cheque for £2,500 from the Mythe Lodge for which we are most grateful to support our outstanding D of E programme. Those monies, for which we are immensely grateful, will go a long way to standardising our stock of tents and thus making setting up camps for students and staff considerably simpler!

Y9 students are now in the process of choosing their [options](#) and they will receive more input this week in relation to careers, self-motivation and study skills. Y11 students are also considering their futures with

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interviews in school that are looking at the various routes for them to pursue. Our Y12 work experience has been rescheduled to June when we hope the incidence of COVID will be lower still and our Apprenticeship Fair, one of few in the county, has also had to change dates. The fair itself is an excellent opportunity for youngsters to consider a different and increasingly attractive progression route and is attended by a whole host of employers who often bring back our ex-students who are excelling in modern apprenticeships at all levels. I am hugely grateful to our inspirational careers lead, Mrs Baird, for her outstanding work in these areas. Our Careers site is regularly updated with current vacancies, careers advice and guidance and can be viewed [HERE](#).

I anticipate writing to you again before the end of next week but until then I will leave you in peace and wish you and your families well.

Yours faithfully



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