

Dear Parents/Carers

The Covid rate in school is still relatively low, however cases in the local area are rising. As you know, we already have our twice weekly testing regime which allows us to track the number of cases within the student community and, currently, the number is very low. As a result, we are reluctant to return to masks because of their potential impact on normal life, mental health, and social interactions. In order to support students who are struggling with testing we will provide a drop-in (daily) from 8.30-9.00 if any child wishes to have support with their Lateral Flow Tests (LFT). This will take place outside in the covered area near D-tree, next the meeting room. This is a limited service for those who may be struggling to do tests at home; it is still best to test twice a week at home before coming into school.

We see testing as our best option to contain the wider spread of Covid whilst maintaining as normal an existence as possible, but I realise that there will be a range of views on this issue. However, I do want to reassure you that we will continue to do our best to take on board all viewpoints whilst endeavouring to keep our broader community safe and, importantly, the students at school.

In the meantime, we ask you to ensure your children test every week, and most certainly before coming onto the school site on a Monday morning.

We would like to reassure all parents and carers that we continue to review all of our protocols regularly as we navigate our way through.

Disruption to our IT Services Saturday 27 November

Our IT Team will be carrying out some work on our IT systems on Saturday 27 November. This means all emails, remote access, SLG and file access will be inaccessible while new systems are installed. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening

Thanks to all parents who attended the Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening Thursday 25 November. We hope it was a valuable opportunity to check with your child's teachers on how they are progressing. The next report, which will be a full written report, will be issued in early March.

Senior Maths Challenge.

18 of our Year 11 students recently took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, a 90 minute exam paper aimed at students in Year 12 and 13. Even entering this competition is a huge achievement – even more so as the students had to complete it on the same day as 3 mock exams. Huge congratulations go to Arthur Rainey who achieved a gold certificate and has qualified for the next round of the competition. In addition, six students gained a silver certificate and seven a bronze. We certainly have some outstanding mathematicians in the year group! Well done to all of them!

Parent Governor Election Results

Congratulations to Catherine Packham who has been appointed as a Parent Governor following the recent Parent Governor Elections. We hope Dr Packham will find it a rewarding experience.

Root Word of the Week – Ject: to throw or place (Latin root word) examples include: Conjecture; interject; Projectile

Key Dates

- Friday 17 December – last day of Autumn term – early closure at 12.30
- Tuesday 4 January 2022 – start of Spring Term (Week 1 of timetable)

Key Dates 2021/2022 are on our website: https://public.dorothy-stringer.co.uk/ds/pages/key_dates.aspx

Take care and stay safe.

Matt Hillier