



22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

I write at the end of a busy half term. We have all enjoyed being back in a more 'normal' school environment. It has been particularly lovely to see extra-curricular activities get off the ground again and I know the young people have appreciated this too. Thank you to everyone who supported the MacMillan Coffee morning, which, over the years has become a great tradition here and it was so great to be able to revive it this year. We raised over a thousand pounds for this excellent cause and enjoyed some delicious cakes too. There is a lot of baking talent in our community.

We are very very keen to be able to maintain the current education provision and we would be very sad to have to introduce further restrictions again. This is why we continue to work hard to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our pupils' education. We have continued to have a very stringent cleaning routine in school. The one-way system we introduced is supporting movement around the school. Split lunches are reducing crowding as well. Regular testing is an important protective factor for our community and I would urge you to please continue to make sure your sons and daughters test twice weekly. Test kits are available in school and we will be issuing them again during form time on our first day back. If your children return a positive lateral flow test, they must isolate and go for a PCR test. If your child has symptoms that might suggest COVID-19, it is especially important that they take a lateral flow test. When your children take a lateral flow test, it is helpful to the Public Health Department if you log all results on their website. I would like to thank the large number of families who have been logging regularly but if you have not got around to it yet, you can find the link [here](#). If you set up an account, logging the test result takes no more than 30 seconds.

On 1 November the NHS will be offering vaccinations to 12 -16 year olds in our school. If you wish your child to be vaccinated, please give your consent through the link in the attached NHS letter. Many experts believe that vaccinating young people is essential to bringing the pandemic to an end quickly and I would ask you to consider this to protect your child's education and your family's health.

I am sorry we have not been able to get the printed copy of the Parent Handbook to you yet but it is available on the website. After half term we will be re-emphasising the importance of personal presentation. Please join us in reminding your children that obvious make-up and jewellery are not acceptable in school and if children do attend school in breach of these rules, they will be



expected to remove the make up or items of jewellery. The only piercing that is acceptable is a single stud earring in the ear lobe. As the weather deteriorates, please ensure that your child has an appropriate coat. Coats must be worn on top of the blazer. We have very good systems for dealing with lost property so please label your child's school uniform and possessions so we can reunite them if things go astray.

Thank you for your support with your children's homework. Evidence suggests that pupils who regularly complete their homework make substantially more progress than pupils who don't. Please don't hesitate to ask if you need support with technology for homework or indeed if you need general support with homework. After half term we will be inviting you to give us some detailed feedback on how you and your children feel about their progress with their homework.

I am sorry to conclude with some disappointing news. Sadly, we will not be having our CET Carol Service in the Minster this year. Unfortunately, restrictions in the church mean that we would only be able to welcome a fraction of our school community. We look forward to December 2022 when we hope to reinstate it.

I have noticed in the last few days that our young people are ready for a good break so may I wish you and your family some happy family time and some opportunities for relaxation in the week ahead.

Yours sincerely

A L Mobbs
Principal