

21st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

A clear focus for the school this term has been around re-connecting our community and building/re-establishing routines and good learning habits as we aspire to be the best we can be. We are delighted to report that the vast majority of students and colleagues have been able to fully attend school and even though the situation has been challenging there has been a real sense of high standards and community culture within the building. Positive attitudes and a solution focus has allowed us to provide many moments of real joy and opportunity. It has been a delight to see the school thrive through the curriculum offer and the enrichment opportunities. Particular highlights have been the Duke of Edinburgh expedition weekend to Wales, a number of exciting sporting fixtures against other schools, whole year group assemblies and hearing some impressive music and drama rehearsals.

Attendance and Punctuality

Now routines are re-established we are determined to give our young people every chance to engage in their learning. Thank you to all families that ensure their child arrives on time and prepared for lessons each day. To further enhance a sharp start to the day from 1st November please note Helms Coaches have changed their timings of pick-ups to ensure our young people are at school by 8.30am and in lesson 1 at 8.40am. **If your child travels by bus** – new timings will be available on the school website by the end of the week but overall pick-ups are 10 minutes earlier than previous. **If your child makes their own way or you bring them** - please note that lateness will be sanctioned and followed up. I appreciate your support on our drive on attendance and punctuality.

Information Evenings

Thank you to all parents who attended the Information Evenings this term. Copies of the slides have been emailed to the relevant year groups. Next term we will be looking forward to welcoming parents of Year 9 for their Information and Options Evening on Thursday 2nd December. More information will follow nearer to the time.

Student Leadership Conference

This week, Y11 House Leaders participated in our first student leaders' conference of the year. Twenty students were able to work closely with senior staff on a range of key issues, including the school bullying policy, developing a home/ school agreement and learning outside the classroom. We look forward too many more opportunities to gather the views of students, parents and carers in order to shape future policy and practice.

Covid-19 update

We continue to take additional measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including:

- Increased cleaning throughout the day.
- Encouraging students and staff to practice good hygiene.
- Monitor ventilation in our spaces in school and open windows and doors where possible.
- One-way system and separate year group entrances.
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a [PCR test](#) should they develop symptoms of the virus.

Please continue to support us by ensuring your children lateral flow test twice weekly and report each result <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. The letter from the Director of Public Health refers to collecting tests from school, unfortunately we have experienced delays in receiving our allocation of lateral flow tests for staff and students since we returned to school in September. However, we are still hopeful we will receive a delivery before the end of the half term, and packs of tests will be distributed to children as soon as they arrive.

Important update regarding testing – New guidance from the Director of Public Health. It is now recommended that if one individual in a household test positive, **children and young people in that household who attend school or college should:**

- Take a PCR tests (ideally on Day 3-5 after first exposure and
- Take daily Lateral Flow Tests (LFD) for 10 consecutive days from the date of first exposure
- Continue to attend school provided that their test result (PCR and LFD are negative)
- Self-isolate for 10 full days from the date of the test if any of their test results are positive
- In the event of a positive lateral flow test result, obtain a confirmatory PCR test
- If the confirmatory PCR test is taken within two days following the positive LFD and the PCR result is negative the young person can return to school.

A copy of a letter from the Director of Public Health is attached.

We continue to monitor cases for potential transmission links and take our guidance from Cheshire West and Chester Public Health Team. We are aware that some schools within Cheshire West and Chester have experienced an increase in cases within their community and as a result have reintroduced precautionary measures such as the use of face coverings in corridors and public spaces and the pausing of sporting fixtures/enrichment clubs and educational visits. I will continue to update you if any measures are required at Neston High School.

Face coverings on dedicated transport to school

Please continue to provide your child with a face covering to wear when they are travelling to school if they use the bus. Although it is no longer mandatory to wear face coverings on public transport including dedicated school transport, it is still recommended.

As always, I wish all students and their families a happy and safe half term.

With kind regards

K Simpson
Headteacher