

4th November 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome students back after the half-term break and I would like to thank all parents and carers who supported their children to take a lateral flow test before returning to school this week. As you are aware we experienced difficulties receiving a further supply of test kits. They have now started to arrive and as they do are being issued to students. Test kits are the new 'nasal only' LFD - full instructions are included. Please can I stress again the importance of all students and staff testing twice weekly. Results can be reported on the following link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

As a reminder, guidance has recently changed and 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 results (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.

Progress Events (Parent Evenings)

I know many of you appreciate and support the communication between school and home and Progress Events/Parent Evenings play an important role in this interaction. Thank you to all parents and carers of Year 13 students who engaged in the Online Progress Meetings before half term. The next Progress Event is for Year 9 students which will be held on Thursday 9th December.

Attendance and Punctuality

As you may remember from my last letter, this term we are having a drive on attendance and punctuality. The vast majority of our students are on time in school and ready to learn and this is key to giving students every chance to engage in their learning. Thank you to all parents and students who have supported the importance of this focused initiative, particularly students who have adapted to the earlier bus timings.

Back Gate (Hawkins Road entrance)

Please note that from Monday 15th November the back gate will be locked at 8:30 a.m.

Please find below some important information from the Internet Watch Foundation and the Cheshire West and Cheshire Health and Safety Team

Information from the Internet Watch Foundation

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) tells us that 'since the start of the pandemic, the amount of 'self-generated' child abuse imagery has increased dramatically. In 2020, the IWF confirmed 68,000 cases of such imagery, a rise of 77% on the year before. It accounts for nearly half (44%) the imagery the Internet

Watch Foundation took action on last year. In 80% of these cases, the victims were 11- to 13-year-old girls.

The IWF has created a resource to help parents and carers understand the risks of 'self-generated child sexual abuse imagery' using the acronym 'TALK'.

Parents and carers will find a wealth of useful information about this complex area at the following link:
<https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

Health and Safety Message

Bonfire Night Events

'Firefighters in Cheshire are urging people to celebrate Bonfire Night, and the time around it, at an organised event this year, in a bid to keep people and property safe.'

Cheshire Fire and Rescue have a Bonfire night - list of organised events in Cheshire which can be found here: <https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/home/bonfire-night-list-of-bonfires-in-cheshire>

Organising Firework Displays

Firework displays should be enjoyable and spectacular occasions – but they obviously need some responsible planning. If you are organising a major public event, you will clearly need a robust and detailed approach to planning as well as professional involvement. Further advice on organising firework displays can be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks/index.htm>

Sparkler safety advice

The Health and Safety Team also occasionally get asked at this time of year around giving sparklers to children. Sparkler safety advice can be found here: <https://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/public-safety/campaigns/events/bonfire-and-firework-safety/sparkler-safety>

Wishing you a lovely and safe weekend.

With kind regards

K Simpson
Headteacher