



19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 Update

The number of students who have needed to isolate due to having a positive COVID-19 test has continued to be monitored following half term. Our figures have not risen significantly with some of our young people returning either side of this coming weekend having been away for the mandatory period of time. We also have a relatively small number of staff who have needed to isolate due to contracting COVID-19.

We have followed guidance around reintroducing masks in communal inside spaces along with not having formal assemblies following the half term break. We will be reintroducing face to face assemblies next week on the basis of our current number of cases. With regards to masks, we are going to continue to wear them in communal inside spaces but not in the classrooms during lessons and will regularly monitor and review the situation along with the rest of the schools in the Lighthouse School Partnership. Our COVID-19 risk assessment is available to view on our website.

It is really important that we all continue to be vigilant around COVID-19 as we approach the winter and make sure all students follow the clear guidance below including a request that students test with a lateral flow test twice a week.

For COVID-19 NHS guidance on when a child should attend or stay off of school, please see the attached link. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if you have any of the symptoms above, even if your symptoms are mild, stay at home and do arrange to have a test. There are several other symptoms linked with COVID-19. These other symptoms may have another cause and are not on their own a reason to have a COVID-19 test. If you are concerned about your symptoms, seek medical advice.

If adults or children have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine and have symptoms of COVID-19 or have received a positive test result, you should still follow this guidance. This is because it is still possible to get COVID-19 and spread it to others even if you are vaccinated.'

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations

These important examinations happen before the Christmas break for Year 11 and in January for Year 13. A letter has already gone to Year 11 students, parents and carers from myself with an invite to an **Online Information Session** for parents and carers on **Monday 22nd November**. Dr Holland will be writing to Year 13 students, parents and carers in the next week or so to clarify arrangements and invite parents and carers to their own evening which will cover mocks along with other aspects relevant to Year 13.

Parent/Carer Involvement

We have enjoyed meeting parents and carers recently in Parents' Evenings, our Safeguarding Introduction Evening with Mr Stirling-Turner and our Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening with Mrs Foley amongst other events. A reminder that if you do need to contact the school then we would be delighted to hear from you and that our website is an area where much information about the school can be accessed including key dates.

We have been working with ClassCharts for some time now and we hope that you have been able to access the information you need. We are reviewing this now that we have become familiar with the product and will be looking to potentially open up other functionality in the foreseeable future.

RAG Week

As a start to RAG Week, which is a week-long event taking place between Friday 26th November and Thursday 2nd December, the Sixth Form Committee have organised a **non-uniform day** on **Friday 26th November** in aid of Off The Record, a charity they would like to support as it does so much to help and assist young people in our community and local area. A donation of £1 is asked for to wear non-uniform to be handed in to the Sixth Form RAG collectors who will visit tutor rooms during Friday registration. If students do not wish to participate, they should come dressed in normal school uniform.

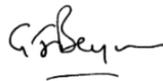
Christmas

Staff are working through arrangements at the moment for Christmas including details of Christmas lunch. Chew Valley has some traditions around this period, such as the Sixth Form Debate and the Year 7 visit to a church in Chew Magna, which have been running for some time and we are keen to continue these – details will follow. Rest assured the Christmas trees have been ordered!

End of Term

A reminder that term will finish for all students on Friday 17th December at 12.05pm. Coaches will be advised of the early finish and will run accordingly.

With very best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher