

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

Dear parents and carers

I wanted to write with a quick update on the latest situation regarding COVID in school. As you know, there is no doubt that we have had a lot of cases amongst students this term, but the good news is that we have seen significantly fewer new cases this week and there is a definite downward trend – something we are attributing at least in part to the impact of the vaccines for 12-15 year olds from three weeks ago. Therefore, I have been in discussions with Public Health Warrington and we have agreed that face coverings will not be needed after half term, on the understanding that they may need to be re-introduced if we see cases rising or government guidance changing again.

At the same time, it is very important we remain vigilant; with this in mind, please take a moment to read [this letter](#) from Warrington Borough Council about measures to be taken over half-term. Please note that, although the letter refers only to students in Years 5 and 6, all secondary school students (including those at Lymm High School) are still expected to take lateral flow tests twice weekly – for us, that means on **Wednesday and Sundays**. Also, for those who missed out on the vaccinations when the NHS team came into school, please bear in mind that the government are enabling 12-15 year olds to be vaccinated over half-term – as we understand it, the booking system on the NHS website will be opened up to this age group next week.

I must finish by saying how much I have enjoyed this half-term. Despite the number of COVID cases and the challenges this has presented, the disruption to education has been far less than much of last year and it really has been wonderful to experience things being more back to normal. For example, I went out after school one day last week to watch some sport and found myself spoiled for choice – both artificial pitches had matches on them, as did the netball courts and several of the grass pitches. The site was full of hundreds of students in different year groups, boys and girls, all playing competitive sport again, and it really did put a spring in my step. Similar things could be said of so many other areas of extra-curricular life and it's really brought home the importance of these things. On a related note, I'm pleased to say that Duke of Edinburgh will be launching again after half term; we will be offering Bronze to Year 9, Bronze or Silver to Year 10 and Gold to Year 12. More information will be available after the break.

I have been equally delighted with what I've seen in lessons all term. COVID has meant that we've had a bit more in the way of supply teaching than we'd like but, even despite that, teachers and students have been doing an excellent job of focusing on learning. Well done to everyone.

Best wishes for a lovely half-term.

Kind regards



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