



Friday, 22 October 2021

End of Half-term Letter from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of our first half-term for some time without restrictions in the classroom because of Covid, I would like to update you on several issues. Our students have simply been magnificent this half-term. They have embraced returning to a classroom free of 'teaching zones' and have fully exemplified our 'Work Hard, Be Kind, Take Pride' ethos in both the classroom and beyond.

COVID-19 Testing During the October Half-term Break

I encourage our staff and students to test twice weekly at home over this period, as well as testing at home the evening before they return to our school. I thank you for your committed approach to such testing this half-term.

I am pleased to report that we have seen a steady decline in student cases over the last two weeks and we hope this trend continues. As ever, if numbers rise next half-term, we will continue to liaise closely with the Department for Education and Public Health England about the school's response to maximize the safety of our school community.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for 12 to 15-year-olds

We expect these vaccinations to take place in school next half-term. The NHS will be running this programme and we will serve as the host. The Department for Education and NHS stress that vaccinating children should help to reduce the need for children to have time off school and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 within schools.

Please note that the nature of this nationwide vaccination programme will mean that parents often receive quite late notice, often being informed the day before vaccinations take place.

Parent and Carer School Survey

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have already completed the online survey. Your feedback is much appreciated and helps make the school a better place to learn for every student. Please can I ask that surveys are completed by Monday 1st November? Please find the link for the survey below:

[Parent and Carer Online Survey](#)

Students have received similar surveys to complete earlier this week.

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School Uniform

We deeply value our school uniform at Toot Hill School. Our uniform reflects our intense sense of community and equality in the school, where students wear it with a developing a sense of pride.

Wearing a uniform places a student in a 'working environment' mindset and helps them separate their home and school life. School uniform also places children on a level playing field, reducing the pressure to wear the latest fashionable brands, which contributes positively to their wellbeing.

We await the legislation from the government that will help parents access school uniform more affordably. Whilst we have no intention of changing the substance of our uniform, we hope to work closely with suppliers to make the uniform more affordable for all.

Tutor Review Day

I would like to thank parents and carers for attending this event online this year. The event had a pastoral focus which we thought was greatly needed following an academic year of such personal challenge for families. We will be listening closely to the voices of parents and carers regarding the need to run such a day next academic year and if it does take place, what the format will be.

Access to the School for Pedestrians

I would like to thank students for their continued patience when walking to and leaving school because of the currently limited access. I am pleased to report that the cut-through pathway leading to the Leisure Centre from The Banks is now open. However, students can still not access the school on foot through the bus park.

The school is seeking assistance from the local council to investigate potential improvements to maximize student safety when walking to and from our school.

Thank you for your continued support and I do hope you enjoy a fantastic half-term break with your family.

Yours sincerely,



Dr C Eardley
Head of School