

# HOLYWELL SCHOOL

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*A Church of England School  
providing a Values Based Education*

Update Letter 13-10-2021

Dear students, parents and carers

I hope that this letter finds you all well and enjoying the autumnal sunshine.

## **Covid-19 Update**

I had our 14-day review yesterday with Public Health. Our Covid-19 cases are starting to slow down but we still have a number of students and staff self-isolating. Our mitigations are having some impact, however, we are still over the threshold for cases. As a result of the review, we will continue with some of our mitigations until half-term and gradually get back to 'normal'. We will continue with the following:

- Face coverings around school and in classrooms
- Keeping Year groups separate where possible - inc. at break and lunchtime
- Not having in-person Key Stage assemblies but having live-streamed assemblies instead
- Twice-weekly lateral-flow testing for KS3 and staff
- Public Health advice re: siblings to remain in place if there is a case of Covid-19 in the household
- Continued hygiene measures (inc. regular and frequent hand-sanitising)

We will re-introduce Year assemblies from next week and, even though there is some risk involved, the Year 7 Mountfitchet trip *will* take place on Monday (it is one year group and, apart from the coach trip, this is mainly outdoors). Both Public Health and I believe that the educational benefit of the trip outweighs the risk at the moment. We leave this to your discretion to decide whether students take part but we would encourage everyone who has signed up for the trip to take part (remembering to wear face-coverings during the coach journey where possible).

## **Covid-19 vaccinations for 12 and 13-year olds**

We have now been allocated a date for hosting the Covid-19 vaccinations as detailed in the previous update letter. The date is: *Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November*.

Children who are 12 years old and over on the day the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team visits the school, will be offered a vaccination as part of the in-school vaccination programme. Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff working closely with us and following the usual approach to school-based immunisation. The SAIS will be the primary provider of the vaccination programme for healthy 12 to 15-year olds and will be legally responsible for the delivery of the vaccine. The SAIS provider will be contractually responsible for the service, as they are for other school vaccination programmes. Consent will be sought by the SAIS provider from the parent or person with parental responsibility in the same way as for any other school vaccination programme. Parents will also be provided with a contact number for the SAIS team in case of any queries.

The decision as to whether students have the vaccination or not is entirely a matter for you as families to make.

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

As part of our live-streamed assemblies and community time this week, we have been looking at Mental Health and Wellbeing – following on from World Mental Health Day (last Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> October). It has been a good opportunity to check in with students to see 'how we are all doing'. There are some lovely videos on the Every Mind Matters website from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/youth-mental-health/> which we have used to stimulate discussion – parents and carers might like to have a look at the resources too. We want everyone to be confident, happy individuals at Holywell and we have reminded students of the snow-globe analogy (imagine being in a snow-globe with



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Deputy Headteacher: Mr S Van Der Merwe – Deputy Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss A Stewart  
Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead / SENDCo: Mrs J Davies – Senior Leader: Mr James Ulph

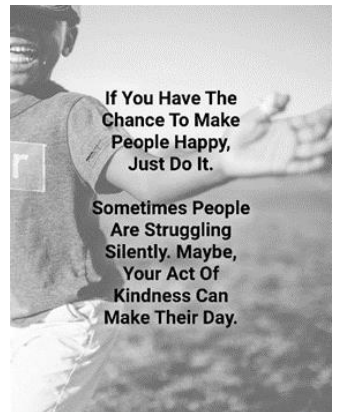
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the snow all swirling ... that's what stress is like ... we all need time to let the 'snow' settle, before we can deal with things calmly and thoughtfully). We have also talked about the importance of 'fun' as a balance to stress. Parents and Carers might like to have a look at the links on the school website, or on the Bedford Borough Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub:

[https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/site.page?id=R\\_ScQfICiWk](https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/site.page?id=R_ScQfICiWk)

Remember – please talk to someone if you're struggling!

One thing which would help everyone's mental health and wellbeing (especially our site team!) is if students did not engage in random, antisocial TikTok challenges. TikTok, as most students and parents will know, is a video-sharing, social networking service which hosts a variety of short-form user videos. The age limit is 13 so most students should not be accessing this app. From the small isolated incidents of anti-social behaviour, we have tracked down the source of this to the latest challenge - which is to encourage students to pull off "devious licks" — small-scale heists of everything from soap dispensers, COVID test kits and hand sanitizer to high-value items like classroom tech. TikTok have now cracked down on this and have removed the video challenge, encouraging users to "please be kind" to teachers. Students identified in carrying out such challenges will incur consequences in school ... and, if your soap at home suddenly goes missing, you might want to review what students are accessing on their phones.



### **Year 8 Leadership Roles**

We are delighted to announce our Year 8 Leadership Role positions. We had a huge number of applications for the posts available and the quality of these applications was very high. It is wonderful to have so many students willing to take on these student leadership roles and we had many difficult decisions to make. We look forward to working with the students over the year.

#### House Captains

St Andrew- Ewan & Chloe  
St David - Katarzyna & Annabel  
St George - Molly & Lennox  
St Patrick - Hannah & Aarav

#### Sports Captains

St Andrew- Callum & Aubrey  
St David - Harry & Sienna  
St George - Archie & Kyra  
St Patrick - Emmanuel & Katy  
Ambassadors - Riley & Ava

#### Values Ambassadors

Lucas, Gurleen, Summer, Florence, Zac & Bertie

#### Prefects

Amy C, Freya, Abigail, Zoe, Lily, Eva, Romeo, Olivia, Sophie, Daisy, Ruby, Adam, Katie, Amy B, Grace, Bella, Charlotte, Grace, Sophie, Ava S, Sophie T, Jordan, Abigail B, Owen, Grace O

#### English Mentors

Isabella D, Lily R, Harriett, Corry, Andra, Emily P, Holly W, Finlay, Ava H, Dylan

#### Maths Mentors

Ahmed, Jamie, Zac L, Jessica S, Ruby W, Jack G, Jaden, Willow, Amalia, Aimee, Roxy B, Tanisha

#### Arts Mentors

Charlotte G, Cash, Cyann, Charlotte W, Ursula, Jessica N, Amelie, Caitlin, Isabelle, Michaela

### **Thank you!**

Continued thanks for all your support, understanding and adaptability in these most challenging of times.

Best wishes

Mike Simpson  
Headteacher