



4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

In this letter

- Face coverings in classrooms
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- Booking Covid Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds
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Face coverings in classrooms

Following guidance issued by the DfE over the weekend, students will be required to wear face coverings in classrooms from the start of term, as well as in other internal areas (unless eating), unless exempt. All exempt students need to be wearing a wristband confirming that this has been confirmed by their Head of House.

Testing for students who have tested positive in the last 90 days

We have now received clarification that, even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are now encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection. As explained in my last letter, we have not scheduled these students for an on-site test, so we would ask these students to test at home in the 24 hours prior to the return to school.

Booking Covid Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

A reminder that vaccinations are available for students from the day they turn 12 years old or from 90-days since a positive PCR test. Second doses are available from 12 weeks after their first, and can be booked immediately after the first dose. For further information and booking please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-for-children-aged-12-to-15/>

In addition to this, Harbourside Family Practice GP Surgery are holding a vaccination clinic this Thursday 6th January in the afternoon. The clinic is for anyone living in

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Portishead, Pill or Clevedon aged 12 years and over who would like a first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Appointments need to be booked via the surgery on 01275 868500, option 1.

New Tutor Base Locations for start of Term 3

Please note that tutor bases have moved from the start of Term 3, in part to enable staff to ensure strong cleaning regimes in classrooms. We have sent you and all students a page recommendation in Firefly where you can filter the list to show each tutor groups new room. You can follow [this link](#) to get to the same page.

A reminder about “No Nuts”

A reminder that we operate a “Nut Aware” policy because we have a number of students with nut allergies, some extremely severe. We therefore ask parents, carers and students to not bring nuts or foods containing nuts to school including lunch-boxes and ingredients used for cooking lessons e.g.

- Nuts (all types except coconut)
- Pesto
- Cereal bars
- Flapjack-type snack bars (especially the naked/eat natural/graze products and ones which are often gluten free)
- Some vegan/vegetarian suitable foods often contain nut ingredients so please check the labels

Punctuality

Terms 1 and 2 saw an increasing level of students being late to school. As well as disruption to their own learning and that of others in their classes, it also places a considerable additional burden on the attendance team. This delays our ability to account for the safety of all students each morning.

Could we please therefore ask for your co-operation in ensuring that your children get to school on time, and your support in reinforcing the sanctions imposed by school for repeated lateness. The lates detention system will resume now the roadworks outside of school have finished.

A final important announcement

After 14 hugely rewarding years at Gordano, I will be leaving at the end of this academic year. It will, in many ways, be very hard to leave such a special community and I am very proud of what we have achieved together, not least the way that the school community has come together so wonderfully when Covid hit in March 2020.

I know that it's an exceptionally busy time at the moment, but it's important that the school has good time to appoint a new Headteacher for September 2022. I know that a change of leadership can be an uncertain time (especially with Danny McGilloway's departure at Easter), but it also presents an opportunity and I have no doubt that, with the reputation that we have built over many years, it will attract a very strong field. We will keep you informed of progress.

As we enter the New Year I will dedicate myself as fully as ever to ensure that we are in the best possible place to face the challenges of the next six months and in the transition to the new Headteacher. No doubt you'll be hearing from me very again soon with more detail on this. In the meantime, we are crossing our fingers that we can start term, as planned, for all yeargroups tomorrow (for year 11 and 13) or on Thursday (for all other yeargroups) following the on-site testing that is currently happening.

With best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Inman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Inman
Headteacher