



7th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

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Update on Potential NEU Strike Action

Following further discussions last week we have now been informally told that NEU members have followed the recommendation of the union to call off the strike action. We expect to have formal notification tomorrow but that should now be a formality.

Although we are very relieved that the dispute now seems closed, we remain very disappointed by some of the actions of the NEU and, in particular, their portrayal of the school and its leadership in the local media. This is at odds with everything we stand for and, very importantly, remains entirely separate from our pride in, and huge acknowledgment of, the ongoing dedication of all of our staff to the education of your children. We will continue to work with all staff to support their workload and wellbeing in a way that is sustainable and maintains the ability to give our students a great education.

Headteacher Interviews

Following strong interest in the Headteacher vacancy, interviews for the Headteacher position have been taking place today and continue tomorrow. We hope for a brilliant appointment. The Governing Body will write to parents once an outcome is known.

Covid Rates

You may be aware Covid rates nationally remain high, and notably in schools, with about 7.5% of the secondary school population off school last week due to Covid. Although still lower than that, we have seen a clear increase over the last week, notably in Year 7, who we have asked to take a few extra measures. We will be reviewing the position again in the next couple of days.

Staff attendance is also being affected and although we haven't yet had to ask any yeargroups to learn from home, this does remain a possibility over coming weeks.

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Of course we will do all that we can to avoid it, but it is possible that we might need to make a decision at short notice should we have a further increase in staff absence.

'Second round' Covid vaccinations

Covid vaccinations will be offered in school in the first week back after half term for any students who are eligible and where consent is given. We will be sharing more information about this next week. A reminder that appointments are also available through the national NHS booking service.

Advance information for GCSE and A Level Exams

Today information has been shared for Year 11 and 13 students regarding the additional support being offered in preparation for GCSE and A Level exams this summer in light of Covid disruption.

Subject staff will be communicating further detail with students over coming days, but the link to the full guidance is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/subject-by-subject-support-for-gcse-as-and-a-level-students-in-2022>

With best wishes, as ever.

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

Tom Inman
Headteacher