

24 November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The start of term has given us a busy few weeks in school, with year 11 mock exams, sports fixtures, Duke of Edinburgh award sessions, and show rehearsals amongst a wide range of activities in school. For all these events, and for their lessons, our students are engaging superbly across the school. With just over three weeks remaining before the Christmas break, I wanted to remind you of some key events and activities within the rest of term.

Firstly, a reminder that this coming Monday, the 29th of November, is an INSET day. School will therefore be closed for all students.

Secondly, as COVID-19 cases rise across the country, a reminder of the importance of regular Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) to detect asymptomatic cases. Test kits are distributed on a regular basis to all students, and we continue to encourage all students to use these twice a week and to record the results on both the government website [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result) (www.gov.uk) and the school link [COVID-19 Home Test Kit Results Register \(office.com\)](https://office.com). We would also recommend that if your child has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 that they get a PCR test, rather than relying on the LFT's alone.

We are grateful for your continued engagement with these actions. This remains crucial in the coming weeks so that we can keep our case numbers low and allow lessons and activities to run as normal. We want our students to be in school, learning and taking the opportunities available to them. On that note, please find attached another letter around absence for holidays.

Last week we received updated guidance around vaccinations for those under 18. The latest guidance can be found here: [all healthy 16 to 17 year olds should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine](#). One of the key pieces of information centres on 16- and 17-year-olds having a second dose at least 12 weeks after the first vaccine dose, or 12 weeks following a positive COVID-19 test result – whichever is later. To be consistent with this advice, the clinical guidance has also been updated by the UK Health Security Agency to recommend that young people aged 12-17 who are not in a high-risk group should wait 12 weeks after a positive COVID-19 infection before getting their first vaccine dose. This is a change from previous advice that vaccination should be deferred for around 4 weeks after confirmed infection.



Further information can be found at the following website: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-and-support)

We are fully aware that many within the Abingdon community have had a difficult time because of the pandemic and other circumstances. To try and help those individuals and families, Fitzharrys will be running our festive challenge to donate items for the local foodbank. This will be run as a house competition, and we will be asking tutors to collect donations from their students. These will be donated to the Abingdon Foodbank on Thursday 9th December, who will then redistribute them to those in need in time for Christmas. If you can make any contribution to this effort, it would be greatly appreciated. I have attached a list of suggested items as a guide.

Lastly, across the rest of term we look forward to hosting several events including our year 7 Charity Fair, Staff Pantomime, Carol concert and achievement assemblies. We are excited about these opportunities for our students. As with all events these will have some measures in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. We will publicise these in advance and let you know of any changes to these events considering any adjustments to guidance, or changes to the national or local situation.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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