



11th December 2015

Dear Families

School Health Nurse Service

I am writing to inform you about the service provided by the School Health Nurse.

The School Health Nurse Service is commissioned by Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council and provided and managed in school by the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. In addition to the yearly immunisations in Year 8 and Year 9, the service now offers support and health promotion advice to students around the Public Health England priorities for young people which include emotional health and wellbeing, healthy eating, physical activity and risky behaviours. An additional priority is sexual health. This aims to encourage young people to stay safe and to make informed and responsible choices about relationships and sex.

Headteachers and Governors of The Henry Box School and Wood Green School have carefully considered the services offered by the School Health Nurse, particularly in relation to sexual health. We have been advised that offering sexual health services to young people in the Witney area is relevant and necessary; in addition nationally young people between the ages of 16 and 24 continue to have the highest rates of sexually transmitted infections of any age group. We appreciate and value the important role of parents/carers in supporting their children in discussions about sexual health. The service offered by the School Health Nurse will further this by supporting young people to make informed and responsible choices about relationships and sex.

In line with other secondary schools in Oxfordshire, from February 2016 the School Health Nurses employed by Oxford Health at both The Henry Box School and Wood Green School will offer a range of services including information about healthy relationships and delaying sexual activity, the meaning of consent, child sexual exploitation, sexual health advice, STI screening and treatment, and pregnancy testing. School Health Nurses can provide confidential contraceptive and sexual health advice and care in response to individual requests from young people. In this case they are bound by their professional codes of conduct. Full details of the service can be found in the letter from Oxford Health [click here](#) to view. We are advised that the provision of sexual health advice and support in schools does not increase the likelihood that students will engage in sexual activity and we are convinced that this is a positive addition to the wellbeing provision in our schools.

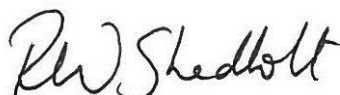
If the young person is under 16, he/she must be considered by the health care professional to be competent to give consent to the proposed treatment. School Health Nurses have received specialist training and are bound by professional conduct; all information about students using the services will be held securely and will remain confidential.

There will be an Information Evening for parents/carers of both schools at 6pm on Thursday, 7th January 2016. This meeting will be held at Wood Green School and will provide an opportunity for representatives of the School Health Nurse Service to answer any questions you may have. The information sheet on the school website from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust provides more detailed information; [click here](#) to view the letter.

We look forward to enjoying your support to ensure that our students are happy and healthy in their formative years.

If you wish to contact Anita Pitcher, the School Health Nurse based at Wood Green School, to discuss any individual concerns, please contact her on 07584385946.

Yours sincerely



Mr R W Shadbolt
Headteacher

**Information Evening for Parents/Carers
re School Health Nurse Service Provision
Thursday, 7th January 2016 at Wood Green School**

REPLY SLIP

I confirm that I/we will be attending the Information Evening for parents/carers at Wood Green School on Thursday, 7th January 2016 at 6.00pm.

Name(s) of Child/Children:

Tutor Group(s):

Signed:

Name (capital letters)

Date:

Please email your reply slip to headteacher@wgswitney.org.uk by Thursday 17th December 2015.