



Dear Parents/Carers and Students

End of Term Newsletter (44) 31st March 2021

I am writing at the end of term as I would usually do to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff and to wish everyone a good holiday break. However, I do also have some important Covid-related news to share with you too.

Asymptomatic Covid cases in school

Having had no positive cases since returning to school, we have been informed that four year 11 students have tested positive for Covid through the Lateral Flow Tests at home and these have been confirmed through PCR tests. We have had to inform a small number of students who were contacts of the positive cases that they now need to self-isolate. This does show that Covid is still around in the community. We share information with other schools locally and we are all probably aware of small numbers of cases in several primary and secondary schools.

The home use of LFTs twice a week identified these cases and we are sending home kits today for students to use over Easter who have opted for the testing. This is also a good reminder that, although restrictions have been lifted a little this week nationally, and the weather is improving, it is still so important for all of us, including our students, to continue to be safe and remain distanced from the people they are meeting. We know everyone is desperate to meet friends again, and we encourage people to do things that are good for their mental health, but we also know how quickly cases can escalate, causing students to have to learn from home again. Year 11 and 13 will continue to have assessments next term too and they do not need any more disruption to their education.

The return to school

As we approach the end of term, I want to reflect on the months since January. The way staff, students and parents managed a sudden lockdown and kept remote learning going full time through Teams was an amazing effort. Then the return to school, including delivering 3500 Covid tests in school and settling everyone back into their learning, has been very successful. Spare a thought for our year 11 and 13s who have managed themselves through such uncertainty and we will continue to work through the grading process in their best interests. We also learnt during lockdown that we are over-subscribed again for September 2021. It is usual to highlight specific achievements in newsletters, but I think everyone deserves a special mention just for keeping our school going. So thank you parents and carers, thank you staff and well done students.

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has written a message to young people, which can be found [here](#).

Farewells

We say farewell and thank you to two members of staff who are leaving us this week:

- Mr Rasdall has been with us since September and is moving on to work with vulnerable young adults and, I am sure, provide them with excellent support. We wish him all the best and thank him for his teaching of English and tutoring through this eventful year.
- Mrs Maskell, our Science Technician, has been with Wood Green for a staggering 20 years. She has supported every student in school at some point, preparing science lessons for them. I visited her this morning in Science, where she was still performing her 'Elephant Toothpaste' and 'Chip Pan fire' experiments and the students were loving every minute. Mrs Maskell is hanging up her lab coat for a final time today and we wish her a good rest, and thank her for so many years of service.

Preparing for next term:

Face coverings: We introduced face coverings into classrooms this term, in line with national guidance, and everyone responded to this well. This guidance is due for an update during the Easter break so we will monitor this closely and let families know of any changes. It is safer to assume that we will continue with the current arrangements.

Other Covid measures: We also have reviewed our risk assessments and we will continue with the other Covid measures after the holiday, such as villages and staggered lunches. We hope to open up some extra-curricular activities in the new term. We intend to keep these arrangements in place and review them again for half-term, but obviously will be monitoring the national picture daily.

Uniform: On a non-Covid matter, I would like students to return with a high standard of uniform after Easter. I regularly get messages from the public telling me how smart Wood Green students look around the town and what good ambassadors they are. We have given students a few weeks to get back into the habits of school and the new term is a good time to start this afresh for everyone. If your child has a reason for not being able to wear the full uniform, please provide them with a note to show their tutor. For Year 11 parents and carers, if you feel that your child has outgrown their current uniform and you are unable to replace an item, then please contact your child's tutor and explain your situation. From there the school will look to work with you and potentially loan items for the duration of term 5.

It is part of our behaviour code to wear our full uniform properly and Heads of Year and all staff will be looking for this in the new term. If a student attends with no valid reason for incorrect uniform then consequences can apply.

As ever, your support in making our school a safe and supported place for students to learn and develop is invaluable, and we look forward to a whole term in school up till the summer.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher