

22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the first half term complete we are pleased to report that Covid levels within the academy have remained relatively low when compared to other Dorset schools, However, numbers of positive cases have risen in the last week. It is important that we continue to do all we can to reduce the risk of transmission. Public Health England have written to schools asking that for at least two weeks after half term measures such as wearing masks, keeping windows open and not having large communal gatherings remain in place. We have also received CO2 monitors from the government and will be fitting these into classrooms to gain a better understanding of the ventilation in our classrooms.

Important - Changes to Dorset Covid Vaccination Programme

The Dorset School Age Immunisation Service (NHS) have decided to vaccinate only Year 11 students in schools. ***All other year groups (including Year 11) can book a vaccination at a walk-in clinic from this Saturday 23rd October 2021 by telephoning 119.***

The planned date for year 11 in school Covid vaccinations is now set for Friday 5th November 2021.

COVID 19 – Update Current of Cases

Year Group	Positive PCR	Positive LFD	Awaiting Result
Year 7	1	1	1
Year 8	1	1	1
Year 9	11	3	1
Year 10	2	4	0
Year 11	1	0	0
Staff	0	0	0

Year 11 Mock Examinations

From the 15th November until 2nd December the Year 11 students will be sitting their first series of mock examinations. These will be a very important set of exams when you consider what has happened in the previous two years and the use of Centre and Teacher Assessed Grades. We are hopeful that this summer the examination process will return to normal but we cannot be 100% certain of that at this time.

All Year 11 students are being provided with copies of revision guides for the core subjects of Maths, English and Science. The English Language and Maths revision guides have already been handed out to students. If any student has not received a copy of these guides, they should speak to their class teacher. Students should be revising over half term.

There are a series of interventions and revision support in place for all Year 11 students at lunchtimes and after school, which will continue after half-term.

Recovery Learning Programme for all Students

We have received some additional funding from the government to support our extensive Recovery Learning provision that we will have in place for this year.

The programme will include small group tutoring, a focus on reading strategies, numeracy support, alternative provision options and developing enrichment activities. We will post details on the school website once everything has been finalised.

Wey Valley Academy

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Graduate Learning Mentors

To support Recovery Learning and to ensure those students hardest hit by the Covid lockdown are given the support required to succeed the academy will be advertising for university graduates to work as Graduate Learning Mentors, tutoring students on a 1-1 up to 1-3 basis in Maths English and Science. These posts will be fulltime until May or June and would suit someone with expertise in Maths, English or Science who may be interested in finding out what it is like to work in a school.

PE Kit

Due to the increasing cases of Covid we will continue to allow students to wear PE kit to school on PE days. However, a tiny minority are still seeing it as an opportunity to wear expensive designer sports tops rather than the official academy uniform (or plain – no logo navy blue or black tops). Please be warned that any student choosing to do this will have to revert back to wearing normal school uniform into the academy and change as normal. Please support the academy with this.

Key Dates:

Saturday 23 rd October	Half Term
Monday 1 st November	Staff Training Day (students not in school)
Tuesday 2 nd November	Students return from half term
Thursday 11 th November	Year 10 PCE
Monday 15 th November	Year 11 Mock Exams Start (3 weeks)
Thursday 18 th November	Year 9 PCE
Friday 3 rd December	Staff Training Day (no students in school)
Saturday 18 th December	Christmas Holiday starts

I hope everyone has a restful and illness free half term. Don't forget students return on Tuesday 2nd November.

Yours faithfully



Rob Russell
Principal

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