

7th January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a good break over the Christmas holidays and that you and your families are safe and well.

The news has been dominated over the last week with the increases in COVID cases and some changes that have been implemented in regard to the Government's 'Plan B'. Some important points to note are as follows:

- All students and staff are asked to test twice weekly using a Lateral Flow Device test (known as LFD or LFT)
- If a LFD test returns a **positive** result, please inform the school as soon as possible
- Face masks should be worn by students in communal areas and classrooms as well as on public transport for all students in Year 7 and above
- The wearing of face coverings for all adults and students (unless exempt) should be worn in communal areas and classrooms
- The general safety rule of hands, face, space should be adhered to by everyone

It is without doubt that these are challenging times that we are all facing and there are many pressures on the educational system. It is our primary goal to continue with face to face education and to keep everyone in our Preston Manor Community safe. By continuing to support regular testing and supporting the school in following the guidelines will help us all significantly. Please can you ensure that your son/daughter who is in Year 7 and above comes to school with a face covering every day.

Just before Christmas, I wrote to you to inform you that there were some slight amendments to the school day being introduced at the Upper School. I would like to confirm that there are no changes to the school day at the Lower School and the timings remain the same as they were from September. The changes have been introduced to support our parents who have children at both schools to allow for easier pick up, drop offs and collections. It also allows our Upper School students who collect and drop off younger siblings to get to school on time, as well as not being late collecting at the end of the day.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, a real concern of mine has been the punctuality to school of some of our students across both sites. In the first week back, the number of students arriving late has *significantly* reduced. I would like to thank you for your support in this as any time that is lost by arriving late is time lost learning. We will continue our drive on punctuality to reduce these figures even further.

All year 10 and 11 students had an interesting and thought provoking talk on the dangers of knife crime from St Giles Trust earlier in the week. The passionate speakers gave their real life stories of the dangers of carrying a knife and information on what some of the triggers can be for someone to decide to carry a weapon. More information regarding the charity and the work that they do can be found here <https://www.stgilestrust.org.uk/>



On a final note this week, I would like to say a word about how fantastic our students have returned to school after such a gruelling autumn term. I have visited many lessons at both the Upper and Lower School and lessons are productive, engaging and our students are working very hard. There isn't very long now until our Key stage 2, Key Stage 4 and A level exams (about 14 school weeks), and seeing the ambition, responsibility and excellence of our young people was such a pleasing sight to see.

Wishing you all a peaceful and safe weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink, which appears to read 'R Denial', is placed below the 'Yours faithfully' text.

RUSSELL DENIAL

Executive Headteacher