

Weekly Communication to Parents/Carers | Friday 18 February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Here are the latest school messages and updates for your information plus details of any letter sent home during the last week.

MESSAGES		
Mrs Crocker	All Years	<p>Vaping</p> <p>We have noticed a recent increase in the number of students that are vaping. Many of these concerns have been shared with us by parents who have become aware that their child is vaping and we are grateful to those parents that have shared this concern as it helps us be additionally vigilant.</p> <p>We know too that there has been a recent rise in reports across the UK of school children using vaping products. These products are commonly referred to as 'disposable vapes', 'nicotine puffs', or 'Geek Bars'. This latter name is an actual trade name but is sometimes used for all brands. The law is clear - no nicotine vaping product should be sold to anyone under the age of 18. Some of the products have been found to contain an excessive amount of nicotine which is harmful in continual consumption. Some are unregistered, which means the necessary safety data has not been provided before placing them on the market. Some of the vapes look similar to a highlighter pen. The price, design, and flavours of these vapes, combined with widespread publicity on social media, make them particularly attractive to young people.</p> <p>The Trading Standards Service has contacted schools to ask for their support to further understand the availability and if they have been identified within our school. They are particularly keen to understand where these products are coming from and who may be selling them.</p> <p>We treat vaping in the same way as we do smoking and any student that we think is vaping or in possession of any smoking related items would be searched, parents informed and a school sanction issued. Any smoking related items that we find are disposed of and not returned to the student or their parents.</p> <p>If you have any concerns about vaping in young people, please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor.</p>
Finance	All Years	<p>Lunch accounts</p> <p>Recently a number of lunch accounts have gone overdrawn. To avoid this, Parentpay allows you to set a reminder to top up when the balance falls below a certain amount.</p> <p>To set an alert go to 'Communication', 'Alert Settings', 'Balance Alerts'. Set a threshold amount (say £5) and tick the email box. You will then be emailed a low balance alert when your child's lunch account falls below £5. You can also set alerts for new items added to the child's ParentPay account.</p>
School	Years 8	<p>Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine</p> <p>The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) are coming into School on 8th March to carry out the Year 8 1st dose HPV vaccinations. Students will only be vaccinated if consent has been obtained from Parents/Carers. Further details can be found here. Please click on the link in the letter which will take you to a consent form. This needs to be completed by midnight on 3rd March in order for your child to receive the vaccination at school.</p>

School	All Years	<p>Covid 19 Vaccinations</p> <p>Sirona are running community catch-up clinics for children aged 12 – 15 years old who were unable to receive their 1st or 2nd Covid-19 vaccination in school..</p> <p>The clinics can be booked here, at a dedicated GP clinic, a Vaccination Centre clinic using the online National Booking Service or by calling 119. Walk-in clinics offering Covid-19 vaccinations for this age group can also be found at www.grabajab.net</p> <p>The DofE have published some frequently asked questions on the vaccination programme including information on eligibility, accessibility and advice for parents of children at high risk from COVID-19.</p> <p>Further information on the vaccination of high risk children aged 5 to 11 years old is available in the guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).</p>
Mrs Weatherson	Yr 10 GCSE photo	<p>We have a really exciting opportunity for year 10 GCSE photography students to attend a free careers event: Q&A with BAFTA & Director of Photography, Gail Jenkinson on Friday 11th March. This is a virtual event during the school day so interested students just need to inform Mrs Weatherson via their google classroom.</p>
Mr Thomas, Mr Dawes and Mr Cook	Year 7 PE (Mr Thomas and Mr Dawes)	<p>A reminder that PE activities will change after half term. If you were inside with Mr Thomas on gymnastics, you will be moving outside back to football (boots and shin pads required). If you were outside with Mr Dawes, you will be moving inside to Basketball (trainers required).</p>
Mr Cook, Mr Dawes and Mr Thomas	Year 8 PE (Mr Cook and Mr Dawes)	<p>A reminder that PE activities will change after half term. If you were inside with Mr Cook on minor games, you will be moving outside back to football (boots and shin pads required). If you were outside with Mr Dawes, you will be moving inside to Basketball (trainers required).</p>
Mr Dawes, Mr Thomas and Mr Cook	Year 9 PE (Mr Dawes, Mr Thomas and Mr Cook)	<p>A reminder that PE activities will change after half term. If you were inside with Mr Dawes/Cook on fitness, you will be moving outside back to football (boots and shin pads required). If you were outside with Mr Thomas, you will be moving inside to Basketball (trainers required).</p>
Mr Francis-Black	Y12 and Y13	<p>Y12/13 Virtual Progress Evening - 3rd March, 4-7</p> <p>Please see letter sent out via Parent Pay on Wednesday with regards to booking</p>
Mrs Ivey	Year 11	<p>Science revision will continue after half term as follows:</p> <p>Biology revision with Miss Ivey in lab 6 on Tuesday 1st March. This session is for all students.</p> <p>Chemistry revision with Mr Hake in Lab 3 on Thursday 3rd March. Note that this session is for students studying triple science only.</p>
Ms Tallis	Year 10 art GCSE students	<p>The current stage - final piece planning - of the Natural Forms Project for Y10 art students is due on Thursday 3rd March, the first art lesson of Term 4. Students need at least six completed A3 sheets. This work forms part of the final GCSE grade. Please support your child to complete this work during the break, if necessary. Further details are on the art Google Classroom.</p>

LETTERS - click [here](#) to see all letters

UPCOMING EVENTS - click [here](#) to see all upcoming events

Feb 28	Inset day
Mar 1	Fairtrade fortnight
Mar 1	Year 12 Trip to UWE
Mar 3	World book day
Mar 3	Y12/13 Virtual Progress Evening - 4-7