



20 January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Updates re. face coverings and COVID-19 vaccinations

Face coverings

You may be aware that the Government announced changes to coronavirus Plan B measures in England yesterday and there were changes in the guidance for schools.

One of the key changes relates to the use of face coverings in classrooms and communal areas. Whilst it has been widely reported that face coverings will no longer be expected in schools, the DfE guidance is clear that schools must continue to follow local, public health guidance. At the moment, the number of cases in school means that we are still working under our 'outbreak management' plan and as such we continue to be directed by our local public health team.

Until we have received further advice from them, the recommended use of facemasks for those who are not exempt will continue in communal and classroom areas. We will of course update you when we receive further clarification.

Vaccinations

You may have seen in our e-Bulletins of 07 and 14 January that the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) advised that they would be on site at Ashlyns on Tuesday 22 February to administer the COVID-19 vaccine (first and second dose) to all eligible students aged 12-15 years old. SAIS has since received a Government directive to reschedule phase 2 of vaccinations prior to the half term break. The new date we have been allocated is Thursday 27 January.

First dose

Students who will be 12-15 years old, and who have not tested positive for COVID-19 within 12 weeks prior to 27 January, (i.e. from 03 November onwards) will be eligible to receive the vaccine on this date.

Second dose

The second vaccination can be delivered no sooner than twelve weeks after a student's first dose and/or after 12 weeks have elapsed since testing positive for COVID-19. Therefore, only those students who received their first dose in school on 22 September 2021, or who independently arranged for it to be delivered on or before 03 November 2021, will be eligible to receive their second dose in school on 27 January 2022. Students who wish to receive their second vaccination must also confirm they have not tested positive from 03 November onwards. We are aware that this may cause some disappointment for students who do not meet this criteria. If your child is not eligible for the

vaccination in school on the rescheduled date of Thursday 27 January 2022, [the attached letter](#) also includes links for you to independently arrange appointments for your child's first or second vaccination.

We appreciate your understanding that this vaccination date change, as with the administration of the process, is completely out of our control.

The [attached letter from SAIS](#) details further information and a link to the consent form that, if your child is eligible, needs to be completed by **midday on Wednesday 26 January**. The completion of the consent form, unfortunately, may not guarantee your child will receive the vaccine on the day. While SAIS will do their utmost to deliver the vaccine to all those requesting it, they reserve the right to make adjustments to their processes on the day.

To assist with the administration of the vaccine on 27 January, we kindly request that you make your wishes clearly known to your child in advance of that date.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, once again, for your support with ever changing guidance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher