15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**New date for Vaccines:** We are pleased to say that Bolton NHS have been able to offer us another day to complete the vaccine roll out for any student who missed out on Monday 11th October. The new date will be Thursday 4th November. Anyone who has already handed in a signed consent form need not complete another. We will send out appointment times to students closer to the time. A copy of the consent form is attached for anyone who was unable to have the vaccine in the last roll out but wishes to take up the offer on the 4th November. Please note that a hard copy and an actual parent/carer signature is required on the form for the vaccine to go ahead. Electronic signatures can’t be accepted. Please be aware that no student will be given the vaccine unless they have a signed consent form and are wish to have the vaccine themselves. There is no need to keep your child off school if you don’t give consent. This absence would be unauthorised.

**Increased COVID measures across Bolton:** Due to the rising cases in young people in Bolton a joint statement from Education and Public health has been issued calling all schools to step up their Covid safety measures until the end of December. We were already encouraging our community to do so.

Thank you for your support in providing masks for the young people and for completing twice weekly tests with your child as we try to limit the spread of Covid in our community. Please remind your child to wear their mask on buses and to in communal areas of school or where social distancing is not possible. Each morning we have to hand out large numbers of disposable masks on entry to school which isn’t only proving very expensive, it is also not good for the environment. No one likes wearing a face covering but please encourage your child to do so for other’s safety.

Please note that household close contacts who are exempt from isolation (Vaccinated adults or those under 18) can attend school but are encouraged to carry out daily lateral flow testing for 10 days after the onset of symptoms (or positive test if asymptomatic) in the case in their household, and only attend school if their lateral flow test is negative. They are also encouraged to follow national guidance for all contacts and access a PCR test at COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). People who have tested positive with a PCR test within the last 90 days do not need to be tested.

We ask that all members of the community complete a LFD test at home prior to returning to school after half term. If you need more tests kits these can be picked up on Wednesday breaktime under the canopies or from the school office. The impact of Covid is still being felt by our community, staff and students and although most children recover fairly quickly, their illness has impacted on vulnerable family members and also results in yet more missed learning as they observe the isolation period. Your support in twice weekly testing and home testing before returning after half term is very much appreciated as a small step to keeping everyone safe.

Many thanks for all your continued support during these challenging times.

*Tony McCabe*

*Headteacher*