



## Weekly Newsletter February 18<sup>th</sup> 2022

So the first half-term of 2022 has now drawn to a close and does so amongst turbulent weather indeed. Thank you for your patience and understanding over the past 24 hours and I hope that you and your families have remained safe.

We have, throughout this half-term, seen a decline in incidences of covid infection amongst both staff and pupils so that numbers currently are in single figures for both and therefore well below 1% of the school population. We have also had confirmation that the Summer 2022 exams will go ahead unless there is a serious change in the public health situation such as to make them unsafe.

Please remember that Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day.

After half-term, schools will be able to adapt their Risk Assessments and associated covid protocols in line with the improving public health situation. Please be aware, therefore, that from Tuesday March 1st the following key changes will apply here:

- The wearing of face masks in classrooms will be optional. We will still, though, expect all pupils to wear face masks indoors in communal areas. This is in line with Welsh Government guidance. All pupils must therefore continue to bring a face mask to school.
- Pupils will not be able to wear their PE kit to school *under any circumstance*. Wearing PE kit outside of PE/Games lessons from now on will be a uniform violation and will receive the appropriate level.
- The one-way system will only apply to Tower Block in Lower School and the Upper School canteen.
- The recommendation from that date will be for two LFD tests per week rather than 3.

There are likely to be other – more minor – internal adjustments which we will communicate to the students upon their return to school after half-term.

Hopefully these will be permanent steps back towards normality.

Please continue to remember:

- Isolation in instances of a positive covid test is for 5 days. Your child must, though, take LFD tests 24 hours apart on day 5 and day 6. If both are negative, then they can return to school on the morning of day 6.
- If either or both are positive, then testing needs to be repeated every 24 hours until 2 consecutive positive LFD tests are received; isolation can end after this.
- Isolation ends after 10 days even if LFD tests remain positive. However, if your child is covid symptomatic at this point then they will need to take a PCR test.

**General**

- The online system is open for Year 12 parents to book appointments with teachers. The system will close at midnight on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. We encourage all parents to attend to speak to their child's tutors to find out what work needs to be done in the build up to the AS exams which start on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- You are now also able to book appointments for the Year 7 parents' evening. Simply follow the instructions sent in the letter earlier this week.
- Year 12 students have been issued with their interim reports on SIMs this week.
- The school musical – *Sister Act* – will run throughout week beginning March 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first show of this type we have been able to produce and perform since Spring Term 2019 and we are all excited to see live performance returning to the school. We would be delighted to welcome as many of you as possible to the Upper School Hall during that week. Tickets can be purchased from school. The rehearsals sound amazing!

Kind regards and have a lovely half-term.

Mark Powell