



End of term 1 update and term 2 arrangements

20 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to update you on school matters over the first half term of the academic year, and to inform you of plans moving forwards.

Thank you for supporting school in helping to return your children back to school, dressed in school uniform, fully equipped and ready to learn. We have been very impressed with how our students have responded to the school's attitude to learning 'Respect' agenda.

It has been an absolute delight to see so many of our students getting heavily involved in the extracurricular programme on offer at breaks and after school. This is an important aspect of school life for students and an opportunity to develop new skills whilst learning more about themselves. All of our activities are promoted through the weekly student bulletin and school website. At the beginning of term 2, we will be reminding students of how they can be rewarded for their work, contribution to wider school life and positive attitudes to learning in school.

There will be two changes to our school dress and appearance policy moving forwards into the new term. From 1 November, we will be encouraging all students to wear a plain black or dark blue jumper under their school blazer as the weather and temperature changes. This is an optional choice for students.

From Monday 10 January 2022, school will be insisting that students do not wear any facial piercings, including plastic retainers, or acrylic nails in school. Both items are becoming an increasing health and safety risk for students in school and a barrier to students' accessing areas of the curriculum, particularly in practical subjects. Staff are wasting a great deal of valuable learning time in dealing with these matters in school when teaching and learning is the priority. I am informing parents of this change now to enable students to have time to make the necessary arrangements to be ready for this change in January 2022.

You will be aware that there continues to be reported cases of Covid-19 in our communities, and this trend is reflected in both student and staff cases in school. As a reminder:

- Children should test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week. This way, we can find individuals who have the virus but are not showing symptoms, and stop them from passing it on to others.
- Children who receive a positive LFD result should isolate and book a PCR test to confirm their result.
- Children who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should take a PCR test and continue to go to school while they wait for their result.
- Please inform school of a child's positive LFD or PCR result using the email address: covidnotification@tuptonhall.org.uk
- You will have received a letter from school on Class Charts confirming the dates of the Covid-19 and flu vaccinations. For your children to receive these immunisations parental consent is required. The deadline for consent is 19 November 2021.

From 22-26 October there will be an interruption to school emails as systems are upgraded. If you need to contact school, please telephone the switchboard and leave a message. You will be contacted as quickly as possible.

Once again, thank you for your support throughout term 1. Whilst we are not fully 'back to normal', we are pleased that the vibrancy and tangible buzz around the school has returned. This atmosphere is important not only to make education an attractive and enjoyable experience for our children, but also to support those who remain anxious and hesitant in these challenging Covid times.

Yours sincerely

Mr Andrew J Knowles
Headteacher