



1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

October already ... the term is flying! Fabulous this week to see sporting clubs back in action, music groups performing together and the library back up and running properly.

My thanks to parents and carers for the rapid response with the consent forms for **COVID vaccinations**. These vaccinations took place on Wednesday and Thursday this week and, as always, our pupils were outstanding. The Immunisation Team were full of praise for their maturity and calm conduct.

The deadline for handing in consent forms for the **flu vaccination** has now passed and so we can no longer accept these.

COVID self-test kits

We have registered more positive cases of COVID in September than in the rest of the pandemic put together. The Delta variant has spread rapidly amongst the younger age groups as they are unvaccinated and all Tameside secondary schools are now seeing the same pattern of increasing cases. We really need your help to minimise transmission and keep our pupils in school and one of the best strategies for this is regular testing at home of children with no symptoms. On Monday, we will have home test kits available for pupils as they leave school. Please discuss this with your child and encourage them to test at home; we really do appreciate your support with this.

Autumn weather

We are now moving into more changeable autumn weather and would ask parents to encourage children to wear coats when rain is likely. We've had lots of dripping wet clothes in the last couple of weeks and this doesn't make for comfortable learning.

Charity Cake Sale

On Thursday our students organised a cake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and all the cake-scoffing led to £185 being collected for this worthy cause. This is in addition to over £2000 raised for Willow Wood Hospice in the summer term. Very well done to our charity fundraisers!

Lovely feedback

Yet again we've had some lovely feedback from a member of the public, this time about one of our Student Leadership Team. A local lady became quite distressed in trying to deal with her poorly cat whilst comforting her young son and was helped out by one of our Year 11 pupils on his way to school. She was so impressed that she took the time to contact school to say how very kind and polite he had been and how wonderful he had been with her autistic son. In a world where so many people are quick to criticise teenagers, it's always worth remembering how fantastic our pupils are!

On that positive note, I wish all our pupils and families a lovely weekend. Keep safe.

ARadcliffe

Andrea Radcliffe
Headteacher