

Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first full week is already almost over and what a busy week it's been! We have carried out a second lateral flow test for all year groups, Years 7 and 10 have had their photographs taken and Year 8 have had their HPV vaccinations! We're hoping for fewer distractions next week and some uninterrupted learning time.

We are pleased to report that only 2 asymptomatic cases of covid were confirmed during the lateral flow testing which is very reassuring. I am grateful to those families whose children have developed covid symptoms or tested positive outside of school for following all guidance and keeping our school community safe. Virus rates in Tameside remain very high and so we will continue to strike a cautious balance between returning to a more normal situation and keeping our staff and pupils safely in school.

We had some concerns reported about this week's vaccination programme for Year 8 and I would like to reassure parents that this had nothing whatsoever to do with covid vaccines; it was simply the first phase of HPV vaccinations. There is much talk in the national media of covid vaccinations for secondary pupils and if this does happen, it is likely to take place in schools. Obviously full parental consent would need to be given and so please rest assured that, should we be instructed to facilitate vaccinations, I would communicate fully with you in advance.

Year 7

I must congratulate our new Year 7 on the manner in which they have started the year. They are already moving around the building with confidence and they are applying themselves so well in lessons! Their positive attitudes and lovely manners have really impressed us – whether it's volunteering to read out, asking for directions, buying lunch or answering questions in class, they are already such an asset to Team Hyde.

I am aware that it is not just our Year 7 pupils who missed their induction days in July – parents and carers were also denied the opportunity to visit secondary schools last year due to covid restrictions and this is something that I would like to remedy. We will be offering some guided tours for parents and carers (along with their Year 7 child) so that you can have a look at our school for yourselves and, hopefully, get to know us a little better. Further information will be sent out to Year 7 parents in the coming weeks.

School Uniform

The vast majority of uniform issues are now resolved and for any last minute orders, Kids Stop in Hyde now has blazers in all sizes. Our other uniform supplier Monkhouse have had an issue this year with stock, especially blazers. If you have ordered direct with Monkhouse and have not yet received your order, please contact Mrs Randall (email address w.randall@hydehighschool.uk) with details of the outstanding uniform items.

Lunch cards

Please can you help us by ensuring that your child brings their lunch card to school every day if they are purchasing anything from the canteen. Children are still able to buy food if they forget their card but this causes queues as they have to be looked up individually and so pupils without their card will need to wait until everyone else has been served.

Lost or damaged cards can be replaced at Student Services at a cost of £1.

Extra-curricular sports

A reminder that extra-curricular activities are up and running from Monday as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y8 Boys' Football Mr Patel	Girls' Netball Fixtures Miss Miles	Y7,Y8,Y9,Y10,Y11 Girls' Football Miss Wells	Girls' Football Fixtures Miss Wells	Y11 Boys' Football Mr Leadbeater
Y7 Boys' Football Mr Leadbeater	All Years Table Tennis Mr Tristram		Y9 & Y10 Boys' Football Mr Beeden	
Y7,Y8,Y9,Y10,Y11 Girls' Netball Miss Miles				

Remote Learning and Digital Access

Mrs Mallon has recently issued a Google form to Year 7 parents and carers relating to permissions for attendance at live lessons (should remote learning be needed at any point) and asking about your child's access to ICT equipment at home. If you haven't yet completed this form, please could you do so as soon as possible so that we can prioritise support with devices if necessary? Click [here](#) for to complete the form.

Library books

Another plea for outstanding library books please. We have almost 300 books still unreturned from last year so every single one helps. There are no penalties at all, we would just be very grateful to have them back.

Music

The Music Department staff have been delighted to see so many pupils keen to take up the offer of extra-curricular sessions. Here's a reminder of what is happening when ... all welcome!

HYDE MUSIC DEPARTMENT CLUBS			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
2.45pm - 3.15pm	2.45pm - 3.15pm	2.45pm - 3.15pm	2.45pm - 3.45pm
MUSIC TECH CLUB	HYDE WIND BAND	HYDE VOICES	HYDE ROCK BANDS
			
Students can independently use computers to complete homework or finish work. Students can also record in the studio and release music on Hyde Records.	Woodwind & Brass players of all abilities & ages come together to perform popular songs.	Singers of all abilities & ages come together to sing modern pop songs.	Musicians of all abilities & ages come together to perform rock & pop songs.

We have had such a **positive start to the term** and it is so nice to see our school fully operational again. A special mention to one of our team who has gone that extra mile this week ... and remains anonymous! We received this lovely email from a member of the public:

"Hi, I'm a parent of a new young Yr 7 who attends Rayner Stephens. My boy was walking home today, Monday, and he fell. A young girl with your school uniform on helped my son to get up. I'm sorry I don't know her name, but for obvious reason wanted this incident to be mentioned. Even though she was from a different school, she took the time to show true kindness, at such a young age herself. I just didn't want a good deed to go unnoticed, even though I don't know who this girl was. I would like the children of your school to know, what they do or how they act out of school, can shine a light upon the whole school."

I would love to know who this kind young lady was – what a **fantastic ambassador for our school!**

I am also very proud to say that one of our Year 11 pupils, Anya, was competing last week in the School Games National Finals at Loughborough University and is now the **2021 School Games Women's Wheelchair Champion!** What a star – very well done Anya! Paris Paralympics 2024 maybe?

On that note, I wish all of our pupils and families a lovely weekend.

Best wishes, keep safe.

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Andrea Radcliffe
Headteacher