



Headteacher's Message



Welcome back! Different families experiences of the Christmas

break will be varied but I hope that you all managed to relax and have some time together. It is wonderful to see all of the students back in school. As always, they handled the pre term lateral flow testing superbly. The testing did pick up a small number of positive cases so a useful process to protect us all. We now know that the NHS vaccine team will return on 11th January, and I include some details

and information about the ever changing government guidance in this newsletter for clarity. Most of all we are looking forward to a focussed term of learning and exciting opportunities for our students. Staff are raring to go! Year 11 have another important set of trial exams in the last week of this half term and Year 10 trial exams are next week. Both groups of students should be revising hard. There are slightly adjusted timings for the week for Year 10 next week with some slightly later starts on some days to make the exams process easier to manage. I am sure the students will appreciate the lie in!

As we start a new term, with many challenges still remaining from Covid we are very excited to fully open our brand new Science facilities which were completed over the break. We now have some of the best Science facilities in the city which our superb team of staff will use to their full potential. We hope that another major piece of re modelling will be complete by half term. This is the Year 10 Hub space, additional classrooms and a multigym. All will provide exciting opportunities for students.

Mr C Jupp

Covid Update

There have been a number of recent changes to national guidance, they are summarised below along with some details on changes to our response so that hopefully we are all clear on this phase of dealing with the challenges of Covid. If you have any questions or concerns or are not sure about anything please contact us, if we can help we will.

Testing

Children should continue to take an LFD test on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. If a positive test is obtained and the child is asymptomatic (no symptoms), then there is no need for this to be confirmed by booking further PCR test. The child should self isolate as outlined below. Children who display symptoms should still arrange a PCR test whether a LFD test has been completed or not.

Changes to Isolation Rules

Positive cases should isolate from the day symptoms started or the day of the test (if no symptoms), whichever is earlier, and for the next 7 days. Further LFD testing should take place on the morning of day 6 and day 7 (24hrs apart). If both results are negative staff/ children can return on day 7 to school as long as they are well and not have a fever. Parents/ guardians should inform the school of test results before their children return. If two consecutive negative results are not produced on day 6 and 7 then continued testing on day 8, 9 and 10 is required. As soon as two consecutive results are obtained 24hours apart then children can return to school on the day the second negative result is obtained.

Mask Wearing

All students, staff and visitors to the school are strongly encouraged to wear a mask in indoor communal areas. These include classrooms, corridors, meeting rooms and school reception. The school can provide disposable masks for students that forget their own.

Ventilation and impact of cold weather

The school continues to keep windows and doors open to maintain adequate ventilation but a balance is struck between this and a 'comfortable working temperature' as per the national guidance. Each week the school will decide whether due to the weather the need for students and staff to keep external coats in classrooms is required. Students will be notified of any changes.

Coventry Childline Volunteer Support

Children at Christmas

One of our wonderful teachers Suraiya Manhota helped to man the phone lines over the festive season. Big-hearted volunteers gave their expertise freely at a time of the year when many services are reduced but arguably more needed than ever.

Suraiya said: "I am grateful to be working for a service dedicated to supporting young people, I currently work as a teacher at Barr's Hill Secondary School and although young people receive ample support in schools they often still need support out of school hours. So, it is great that Childline is an accessible and dedicated service that young people can always turn to. Turning up to shift during Christmas is definitely more manic compared to other times of the year as many young people experience heightened vulnerabilities during this time of year - from exam pressures at school, greater financial stresses at home and the constant uncertainty regarding lockdown, this time of year can be particularly challenging for many. In many ways, it is a humbling experience as, despite the festive and happy atmosphere, many young people feel isolated and struggle on a day to day basis which means they don't always enjoy the Christmas period, unlike many others."

Thanks to Suraiya and all the other volunteers. Wonderful to also see staff showing PRIDE values.

The Childline service on 0800 1111 is available for children every day, even on Christmas Day. Children can contact Childline 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Casual Exam Invigilators Wanted

We are seeking to appoint additional invigilators to join our examination team at Barr's Hill School. We are looking for reliable, enthusiastic and flexible individuals. This role is to oversee and supervise examinations as necessary throughout the school year. The successful candidates will also ensure that guidelines and regulations for the integrity and security of the examination papers and procedures are followed during examination sessions

Applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment to teamwork and have effective communication skills.

Working hours will be variable depending on the examination requirements, but will normally be between 8.00am and 4:00pm.

£9.25 per hour