



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update 15/10/21

Dear Parents

I am delighted to report that the rate of Covid infection within the school has diminished this week. Although it is impossible to be certain it seems very likely that the reintroduction of mask-wearing for staff and senior school pupils has had a beneficial impact. The vaccination procedure for pupils aged 11-16 went well on Monday and we are grateful to the Oxleas Trust for their very professional management of the process.

We will review the decision to reintroduce mask-wearing in the first week of the second half of term. There is always a degree of uncertainty as to the possible effect of a school holiday on infection rates and we shall continue to monitor that closely. As ever, our primary objective is to sustain the normal business of the school without interruption.

I have received a higher than usual number of requests for pupils to be absent in the days preceding the Christmas holidays. In most cases this is a consequence of a need to travel to visit relatives overseas which has not been possible for some time due to travel restrictions. Without wishing to be unsympathetic, I need to reiterate the importance of time spent in school this year, particularly after the disruption of the last two years. I would therefore be grateful if parents could avoid booking flights which depart before the end of term or arrive after the next term has started. Any such absence for family reasons needs to be directly approved by me or Miss Macleod.

Black History Month has remained a central focus in both junior and senior schools this week and the range of related activities can be viewed [here](#). We appreciate that the themes developed in Black History Month should be further developed through the year and I am grateful to all those pupils and colleagues who have been so instrumental in keeping them at the top of our agenda. Other highlights of the week have been a range of sporting successes for both boys and girls, further details of which can be found on our social media pages, and a KS2 Tea-time Concert which was filmed and will be shared with parents next week.

All the postponed prizegiving ceremonies from last year in the senior school have now taken place and I am delighted that we have been able to acknowledge some magnificent achievement across the range of school activity at these events. On each occasion, however, I have welcomed the opportunity to thank and congratulate all our pupils on their

fortitude and perseverance through the year, much of which is chronicled in the latest edition of The Colfeian which has been distributed to parents this week.

For now, I hope that all our pupils will enjoy the forthcoming half term break and look forward to welcoming them back to school on the 1st November.

With thanks and best wishes to you all,

Richard Russell
Headmaster
