



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update

Dear Parents

The new term is now firmly under way and pupils of all ages seem remarkably happy to be back. It has also been a genuine pleasure to have met so many parents this week at a range of year-specific welcome events in both junior and senior parts of the school. The Outdoor Pursuits programme began on Thursday with the Year 4 trip and the senior school programme was introduced to Year 7 parents by Major Cherry on Tuesday evening.

We were delighted to welcome Old Colfeian Michael Smith back to Colfe's on Wednesday when he addressed an audience of senior pupils on matters aeronautical and careers in the aerospace industry. His many insights, deriving from vast experience, took as their starting point the ongoing restoration of a WW2 Spitfire with a rather special back story which can be found [here](#). Colfe's is one of a select number of schools directly involved in this fascinating project which is truly interdisciplinary, involving both history and engineering. The main exhibit was a V12 Spitfire engine which was on display in the senior quad throughout the afternoon.

It is wonderful to see that sports fixtures have now recommenced in earnest and that events such as Senior School House Drama will be taking place next week. There is a lot to look forward to between now and half term.

The main national news this week is that a single dose of Covid vaccine is to be made available to children aged 12 to 16. We have not yet received information about when this will happen, but it has been made clear that schools will be responsible for accommodating the process. The guidance that we have received reads as follows:

“How are schools involved in the consent process?”

Whilst schools may host immunisation services, they are not responsible for securing parental or child consent, for assessing Gillick competence or mediating between parents and children who may disagree about whether or not to consent.

This is the role of registered nurses in the SAIS, who have extensive experience and the expertise to handle these issues and are professionally accountable for their decisions.

Legal accountability for offering COVID-19 vaccines to children and young people sits with the SAIS and not with the school.”

The full guidance is available [here](#).

In summary, the procedure for Covid vaccination will be exactly the same as for other forms of immunisation, for example the BCG. We will ensure that parents are kept fully informed as and when we receive further information.

With best wishes to all

Richard Russell
Headmaster
