



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 03/12/21

Dear Parents

Junior school parents will be already aware that we have had to switch to online learning in the junior school next week. I am very sorry for this and do not underestimate the impact that this decision will have on working families but we concluded that it would have been irresponsible not to act: the number of positive tests rose swiftly through the week and there was a serious risk of it becoming exponential. Our intention is to bring pupils back into school for the last week of term prior to the Christmas holiday.

In the light of the above decision I was delighted that we were able to go ahead with the EYFS Nativity production this week. Both performances were a wonderful tribute to all that Mrs Hall, who leaves at the end of this term, has achieved during 20 years teaching music in the junior school. Many thanks to those parents who were able to attend for your smiling co-operation with all of the Covid restrictions. Photography and videos of the Nativity can be viewed on MyColfe's.

Parents should note that the senior school is unaffected by the junior school decision. Although senior school cases have risen slightly this week we think it unlikely that we will need to switch to online learning between now and the end of term, possibly because a high proportion of pupils chose to be vaccinated. We will continue to require senior pupils to wear masks between now and Christmas.

As things stand, our current intention is to proceed with the Carol Service (for senior school families only), the Winter Concert, Year 7 Concert and Grease, the main production of the term, but not as planned. Audience numbers will be restricted, and there will be other measures to ensure Covid compliance which will be communicated to parents prior to the events. The Year 9 Options Evening on the 13 December will now take place online. The PAFA Christmas Fayre, however, which was due to take place tomorrow, has had to be cancelled, following discussion with Mrs Graham and members of the PAFA committee.

On a happier junior school note, we were thrilled to hear that Mrs Lee Oliver had received a national Teaching Assistant award. The citation was appropriately glowing and we were all proud and delighted to hear such good news. Another high point of the week was the latest event in our professional

concert series in partnership with the Trinity Laban Conservatoire in Greenwich. Our relationship with Trinity Laban has become much stronger in recent years, to the great benefit of our young musicians.

Best wishes to all

Richard Russell
Headmaster
