



From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 21/01/22

Dear Parents

It has been another good week in school, with the number of positive tests remaining steady amongst pupils and staff. There is a good chance that we will be able to remove the requirement to wear masks, at least in class, in the senior school at the end of next week. As things stand, a total of 17 pupils are isolating following a positive test (12 senior and five junior.) Five members of staff across the whole school are currently away due to Covid, including Mr Rogers. He and the others hope to be back with us next week. 80 senior school pupils received their first or second Covid vaccination in school on Tuesday - many thanks to the Oxleas Trust for their very professional management of the process.

I am grateful to pupils and parents for your support for our decision to retain masks in the senior school in the near term. There is a growing consensus amongst head teachers, locally and nationally, that the Prime Minister's announcement on Wednesday, whilst doubtless popular with some of his parliamentary colleagues, was premature. One of our partner schools in the state sector currently has 80 pupils isolating, having tested positive, and entire year groups are still being taught remotely in other schools. I had a letter published in [The Times](#) on this subject this morning.

We had some excellent football results against strong opposition at Forest School last Saturday, including a 4-0 victory for the 1st X1. The new term has also brought significant success for netball and hockey teams, including overwhelming victories for both the U15 netball teams over Bancrofts.

Year 5 enjoyed a visit to The Prince Philip Maritime Collections Centre, where they were able to see real-time art conservation in action on collections normally hidden away from public view. The centre is located in Kidbrooke and we are fortunate to have access to such a fantastic resource on our doorstep. Outdoor singing assemblies in the junior school have also continued this week. We were able to invite Year 12 parents into school on Tuesday for the competitive courses evening and things are edging gradually back towards normal operation in general. Let us hope that the momentum will be sustained this time!

With best wishes

Richard Russell
Headmaster
