

Our Ref: PRC/JYD

28 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have not written to you since we returned in September, which probably is an indication of both how busy things have been but also how smoothly the start of term has gone.

### **Covid Update**

We are all enjoying the freedoms of more relaxed Government measures e.g. by not having to do close contact isolation after each positive case. However, our ethos has been to remain cautious and considerate, therefore we have kept some safety measures in place which go above and beyond the Government guidance e.g. zoning at break and lunchtime and staggered starts/finish times. Whilst attendance was initially very good, we have seen it slip away a little - this is through either students testing positive for Covid-19 or because they are simply unwell. The message from Public Health remains that if you are unwell do not come to school, and think 'Covid first'. It might be that we need to step measures up further depending on rates but this will always be done with Public Health and we will keep you informed.

As you will know, on Friday, the School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS) were on site administering both the nasal flu and Covid vaccines for those 12-15 year olds who had consented. This was with very little notice so many thanks for your support with this, as we know some students had long waiting times. The SAIS managed to vaccinate over 700 Main School students, which should mean a safer environment for us all. If we are notified of a reserve day for those who wish to be vaccinated but couldn't be last Friday, we will let parents know.

I received an email from the Matron of the Vaccination Programme this morning that I would like to share with you.

*Can you please pass on our huge thanks to the school for making what is a difficult thing to organise turn into such a positive experience.*

*The children were excellent, so well behaved. The teachers and support staff were also truly excellent and despite a fire alarm in the middle, this was such a positive experience and everyone should be very proud to organise something of this enormity in such a short time especially with the volume of children.*

**Preit Chahal** Principal

**Hugh Robinson** CEO

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*We were welcomed and everyone was friendly.*

*You should all be very proud of your school.*

## **Site**

We are now sharing a very small section of our site with Great Park Academy until their permanent home is built. Currently Great Park Academy consists of 60 Year 5 children. Gosforth Academy is relatively unaffected by all of this, as Great Park Academy students have their own annex and staff. However, parents can support by not parking anywhere near Knightsbridge or the flats at drop off or pick up, as this is when things are slightly busier than normal.

## **Sixth Form**

Our Sixth Form has continued to grow, which shows just how popular it is to come and study here. We have been fortunate to find extra space by using the Sport@Gosforth area and Fitness Suite (in October). These two fabulous resources will really benefit our students. We have re-introduced silent study periods 1 & 2 as part of starting the day right. In the past we had students who would register and leave site if they were free but now they are all expected to come in, engage in our new and improved registration programme and then be in lessons or studying independently until 10:35am. We feel this will further support them into getting into good study habits and make them ready for the world of work. We are a Sixth Form school rather than college and what comes with that is certain school protocols, one of which is this.

## **Events this term**

As Covid is still not over, given the local and national rates, some of the events this term will still be managed differently to the norm. Year 13 parents' evening will be by telephone appointment, similar to last year, and Year 8 Open Evening will be virtual. We hope to get future events running face to face but are also aware that we will only do this when the time is right.

## **Extra-curricular**

I am delighted that Mr Howard, Associate Leader, is now getting this programme up and running and this morning I have signed provisional permission forms for three trips. Opportunities beyond the classroom have certainly been missed over the last 18 months, so we are looking forward to re-launching this. Please encourage your son/daughter to stay around at 2:40pm on a Tuesday and Wednesday and get involved in all that is on offer.

That's all for now; I'll be in touch as and when I need to. Have a good week.

Mr Chahal  
Principal