

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This week we welcomed into school hundreds of families who wished to find out more about Oaklands. It was fantastic to see our staff and students welcoming so many visitors to our school, and we are overwhelmed by the positive comments and enthusiasm.

Information for prospective students and parents is available on our school website; please follow [this link](#).

Coronavirus Update

We have had further cases of COVID-19 during the course of this week and I have been in touch with PHE and the DfE to seek advice about further steps we need to take to ensure the safety of our students and staff. They recognise that the school is already doing more than the minimum requirement recommended in the DfE guidance. They have stressed the importance of students undertaking Lateral Flow Testing at home. Whilst the uptake for these has improved since the start of term, there are still a considerable number of students not undertaking the twice weekly tests. All students have been issued with a sufficient number of kits to undertake tests, we will continue to replenish these over coming days.

Today we received notification from the NHS School Vaccination Service that they have scheduled COVID-19 immunisations for Oaklands students on 10th and 11th November. The vaccination will be for 12-15 year olds, which means it will not be offered to some students in Year 7 and those over the age of 15 in Year 11, who will be caught by the community immunisation programme. The NHS have already started to issue information this can be found by following [this link](#) for children and [this link for parents](#)

The Chief Medical Officers set out a compelling case for 12-15 year-olds to be offered vaccinations in order to reduce educational disruption after 18 months of turbulence, which has not only damaged the learning of many pupils, but has also affected welfare and mental health. I am aware that this programme is not without its critics. It should be noted that this is an offer of a vaccination and that students, along with their parents or carers, can decide whether or not to take up that offer. The role of schools is limited to hosting these sessions and dealing with associated communications. If you have concerns about vaccination, please contact the NHS School Vaccination Service, the school is unable to provide advice and guidance.

The flu vaccination programme for students in Years 7 to 11 has been moved back to the end of term on 15th and 16th December and more details will be sent to the school and parents nearer the time.

Public Exams

For parents and carers of students in Years 11 and 13, yesterday OFQUAL published the [guidance for public examinations in 2022](#). Whilst this is still at the stage of 'consultation', there is the opportunity for you and students to comment on these proposals. It is a very lengthy document, but in summary the expectation and hope is that there will be examinations in the summer of 2022. Should there be a further outbreak, there are plans for teacher assessed grades, but it is recognised that this would be the least preferred option.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support for the Governors' school uniform policy. The vast majority of students continue to wear uniform with dignity and pride. Unfortunately, over the last couple of weeks the number of students attending school with false nails and false eyelashes has increased. For the avoidance of doubt, these items along with make-up are not permitted in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher