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Dear Parents and Carers

In this Sunday's Gospel readings, we find Peter, who was probably an experienced fisherman, being asked by Jesus to put out into deep water following a night of catching very little. I can imagine Peter's thoughts, "What does that man know? He is the son of a carpenter; no, zero, zilch experience of fishing". He does what Jesus asks and puts out into the water and catches an enormous haul. When Jesus told Peter to put out into the deep water, he was encouraging him to have trust. Trust in God is a virtue not only for fishermen but for all Christians. Trust is a two-way street – built by the actions of groups or individuals and received by those these actions affect, something that is quite topical at the moment.

Vaccinations for 12-15 Year Olds

You will already have received a separate communication from us regarding the vaccination of children aged 12-15 years old.

The immunisation team will deliver this second dose in school on Monday 28th February and Tuesday 1st March. This time the Immunisation Team are using an e-consent consent form. Details of this can be found [here](#) on the website.

The Team would like to pass on their thanks for the support parents gave for the first dose of the vaccine and also to those who have already completed the consent form for the second dose. However, they report **that only 400 students have signed up for a second dose. The first dose was received by over 700 students.**

If your child has turned 12 since the first round of vaccinations, they can now receive their first jab. Please follow [this link](#) for more information.

Parents only need to submit 1 form per child. If an error is made when completing a form please contact the Immunisation Team to correct the error, rather than submit another form. Should parents not know their child's NHS number they can use this link to find it: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/find-nhs-number/>

The completion date for all consent forms is 10.00am on Thursday 17th February.

Staffing in school

All schools are under immense pressure at the moment and while most are striving for 'business as usual' as far as is possible, others are facing the real and present challenges of children and staff being absent with COVID. You may be aware that in response to the crisis, the Government has attempted to entice retired teachers back to the classroom. However, the promised deluge of returning retirees has not happened, perhaps because of the inherent risks of COVID for the over 50s. People retire for a reason and it is normally not to return to the classroom.

I want to pay tribute to all of my colleagues who have gone over and above at this time, be that teachers or support staff, covering other colleagues' roles, deputising for positions of responsibility and coming into work on their days off. This is a measure of their professionalism at a particularly difficult time. Despite the benevolence of staff, the situation still remains acute, so your child may end up with cover teaching staff and in some subjects, it may be necessary to re-cast ability groups.

Student Equipment

Being prepared for learning is really important; it removes a lot of frustration throughout the day. Could I please ask that you ensure your child has a pen, pencil, colouring pencils, ruler, and a calculator. Without these items the start to lessons are delayed and learning time is lost to giving out and loaning equipment.

Public Examinations

Next week OFQUAL will provide schools with a breakdown of how public examinations will be organised this summer for Year 11 and 13. The direction of travel is unequivocally towards terminal examinations. We will write to you with the implications of this next week.

Governor Vacancies

The Governing Body have a number of vacancies for parent, community and foundation governors. Please follow [this link](#) to a letter written by Marc Evans, Chair of Governors, detailing the positions.

Safer Internet Week

Next week is Safer Internet Week and various assemblies and activities will be taking place in school. Vodafone have released a Digital Parenting Magazine which is free to order, with free post and package. The link to this is here: [Digital Parenting | Vodafone](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher