

## **Update from the Principal      Friday 12 November 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Remembrance**

Every year we mark the occasion of the armistice by having 2 minutes' silence before break time. This year was no different, and it was wonderful to see so many classes listening and reflecting in silence as the last post echoed around the school. Many pupils who are involved in youth or cadet organisations came into school in their specific uniform, looking very smart and treating the occasion with the importance it deserves. Whatever peoples' personal beliefs about war and conflict, it is important that each year we spend a few minutes considering the sacrifice that so many gave in previous campaigns so that we can continue to enjoy the way of life we do. Lest we forget.

### **Covid update**

It has been very reassuring returning from half term to see so few positive cases in our school community. Although we have seen only a handful of cases we have been asked by the local authority to remain at Amber for the time being, due to fluctuations in case rates across south Somerset. We will therefore keep asking pupils and staff to wear a face covering when moving around the school indoors and we will keep doors and windows open to promote ventilation in rooms. The one exception to the Amber status allowed by the local authority is the resumption of extra-curricular fixtures, so we will be aiming to get these pencilled in over the coming weeks.

Please do continue to carry out lateral flow tests twice a week, following the government guidance should you get a positive result.

In terms of vaccinations, any 12-15 year olds who missed their school vaccination date (due to absence or illness) are advised to book their vaccination online. [Book or manage your coronavirus vaccine here](#). There is also a walk in service available. You can find out which centres are offering walk in clinics for 12 – 15 year old's on the "[grab-a-jab](#)" website. Please note though, that if you've had a positive Covid-19 test, you need to wait 4 weeks (28 days) before booking. This starts from the date you had the test. Finally, it is important to mention that the vaccine is not mandatory; the decision to have the vaccine is a personal decision. The role of schools is to facilitate access for those who wish to receive the vaccine.

## **House / School Council**

It is lovely to be able to report that all five houses have now organised their House Council and this is now feeding into the whole school council. The first meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday (17 November) and will be chaired by Student Principal Elliott Forster, who will then be meeting with me on a regular basis to discuss issues that are important to the wider student body.

## **Punctuality**

We have been focusing on this since returning from the break and have noticed an improvement in punctuality to lessons by the majority of pupils. The process of running a report each evening and then setting lunch time detentions will continue, so please do speak to your child(ren) about this and reinforce the need to be on time to lessons.

## **House Competition**

Currently, we have a photography and a maths competition on the go and it has been lovely to see some of the photo entries already. I think that will be a difficult one to judge!

There is no change in the lead, with Chelston currently on over 10,000 points. Another well done to Mr Wood, his tutor team and all the pupils in Chelston House. I am sure the other Houses will be keen to catch up this term, so that Chelston don't extend their lead into 2022.

## **Vacancies**

We are recruiting for the following vacancies. Please see the [vacancies](#) page of our website for further information:

**Receptionist/Administrator**  
**Caretaker**  
**Teacher of A Level Sociology**  
**Teacher of Psychology**  
**Teacher of Food preparation and Nutrition.**

We are also currently looking for minibus drivers on a casual basis. Please contact the Academy to register your interest.

With best wishes.



**Mr Chris Wade**  
**Principal**