

26th November 2021

Dear families,

Re: Updates for the remainder of the Autumn term

I am writing to you today to provide important information as we head towards the Christmas break and New Year. We still continue to operate very firmly under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is testament to our student population, families, and staff that the school continues to function so successfully during such difficult times. I thank you all for your continued support.

We find it incredibly frustrating that we are unable to invite families into the building for our usual evening events. I know that there will be many year 7 and 8, and possibly 9 parents that have never stepped foot within the school building, or put a name to a face. This is an ongoing frustration, but a necessary one whilst we continue to have such high levels of infection in the Local Authority. What we are able to do though is invite in small numbers of parents to meet with staff and this is something we will be rolling out in the New Year. You will find details of this in the paragraphs below along with some other important information.

Finally, I'd like to pass on my support and best wishes for our year 11 students as they start their mock examinations. Good luck!

COVID-19 update

As of Wednesday this week, Telford and Wrekin continues to have by far the highest level of infections across the West Midlands. Therefore, schools are being advised to retain their increased measures for the foreseeable future. Within school it does seem that although these measures cause us all some level of discomfort and disruption, everybody is used to them by now.

We have been informed that the NHS may well do mop up vaccination clinics within schools before Christmas, but we are unlikely to reach the threshold of need for them to return so our advice is to continue to use the walk-in vaccination centres that were highlighted in my previous letter at the start of this month.

Homework

As a school we are aware of your concerns about monitoring your child's homework whilst we are using Microsoft Teams. We have been taking the time to resolve this and streamline our methods of communication with parents. Next week you will receive a letter from the Vice Principal, Mr Boden explaining how to use our new system. All homework will be set on the new system from the week beginning the 6th December. Thank you for your patience at this time.



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



Concerns within the community

You will have read, in my letter on the 8th November regarding concerns within the community around anti-social behaviour. We do know that much of this stems from a group of individuals travelling into Newport from other parts of Telford and the surrounding areas but there is also some local involvement. We are continuing to work on an almost daily basis with social services and the police to ensure that this behaviour is punished appropriately. We re-iterate this within school and ask that you do likewise at home. If you have any concerns or information, then please contact the police, and keep the school informed.

Part time jobs and the law

As students have returned from lockdown, many of our older students have started to seek part-time employment alongside their studies. As this is the first time in a while that students have been able to do this, I wanted to highlight some key information around what they can and cannot do, and rules around working hours. For further information please see the following link

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20025/school_information/728/child_employment

Hours of work: children cannot work before 7am or after 7pm.

13 and 14-year-olds

- School holidays: five hours a day and a maximum of 25 hours per week.
- Term time: maximum of 12 hours per week, two hours outside of school hours, one hour only before school.
- Weekends: maximum of five hours on a Saturday and two hours on a Sunday.

15 and 16-year-olds

- School holidays: eight hours a day and maximum of thirty-five hours per week.
- Term time: maximum of twelve hours per week, two hours outside of school hours, one hour only before school.
- Weekends: maximum of eight hours on a Saturday and two hours on a Sunday

No young person of any age may be employed in the following:

- in a cinema, theatre, dance hall or nightclub except in connection with a performance given entirely by children
- be involved in gambling
- to sell or deliver alcohol, cigarettes, or medicine
- to deliver milk
- to deliver fuel oils
- in a commercial kitchen (chip shop, takeaway)
- to collect or sort refuse
- be involved in street trading
- work in a factory or warehouse
- working in a pub or club
- in employment involving exposure to physical, biological, or chemical agents
- to collect money or to sell or canvas door to door
- in work involving exposure to adult material or in situations which are for this reason otherwise unsuitable for children
- in telephone sales
- in any slaughterhouse



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER



- as an attendant or assistant in a fairground or amusement arcade
- any jobs which may cause you harm or injury.

Meet the team opportunity

On Wednesday 13th January from 9:30am -10:30am we will be offering the opportunity for a small number of parents to meet with myself over coffee to discuss any matters you may have. This will have to be kept to a maximum of 20 parents so it will; unfortunately have to be on a first come first served basis. If you would be interested in coming along to this event, then please email kay.mcclean@taw.org.uk

Inclement weather

As the weather turns towards winter and we are trying to retain ventilation in classrooms we will be allowing students to wear a **plain black V-neck jumper** underneath their blazers. In colder areas of the school and at certain times staff may also allow students to continue to wear coats in classrooms, if they deem it to be exceptionally cold. Clearly this is not ideal, however, we have to maintain these levels of ventilation around the school.

If for any reason there is a chance that the school may need to be closed due to snow then that decision will be made by 7:30am in the morning and the information will go out via the website and the usual social media streams. We do always say that if there is snow on the ground and school is open then students can wear footwear suitable for snow.

Staff PD day

Just a reminder that there is a staff professional development day on **Tuesday 4th January** and therefore school will be closed to students.

Other upcoming events and deadlines

- Parent safeguarding evening event (This is now available on the website)
- Deadline for contributions to the Newport foodbank is Wednesday 8th December
- Live streamed Christmas Concert will be on Monday 13th December at 6.30pm. More information will follow.
- Christmas dinner and Jumper Day will be Tuesday 14th December
- Year 9 Options forms must be returned by Friday 17th December
- School term will finish at 12:35pm on Friday 17th December

Yours sincerely,



Ben Morgan
Acting Principal



FRAMEWORK FOR
ETHICAL LEADERSHIP
IN EDUCATION
PATHFINDER

