

1st November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you and your children have enjoyed a restful half term break, and hope students are prepared for another busy half term to come.

Key dates this half term

Some key dates you need to be aware of this half term are as follows:

- Y8 Parents Evening – 15th November 4pm – 8pm
- Y9 Parents Evening – 22nd November 4pm – 8pm
- Y10 Parents Evening – 6th December 4pm – 8pm
- Y11 Mock Exams Week starting 29th November

You will be aware that all of our parents' evenings are now held via SchoolCloud – login information and detailed instructions will be sent out to you in advance.

Sending your children into school:

Through the last half term Cumbria County Council updated their guidance and we appreciate these updates and differences to national guidance can be confusing and sometimes unclear. As such, we thought it would be helpful to clarify some measures in relation to the guidance around COVID-19. If in any doubt, please contact the school office and ask.

Please do not send your children into school if any of the following condition are met and contact the school office:

- They have any of the three common symptoms of COVID.
- They test positive on a LFT.
- They have sickness and diarrhoea - stay at home for 48 hours.
- If you child is generally unwell – keep them at home as you would normally.

We are likely to see an upturn in coughs and colds as the winter approaches; please be aware that when a child presents with a new cough in school, our guidance is to request a PCR test to rule out Covid. A LFT test is not sufficient when potential Covid symptoms are present – including a cough.

Therefore, if your child has a cough, whether you feel it is part of a normal cold or not, please consider getting a PCR test in advance of sending them into school – remember to let us know the results of any PCR test your child gets.

Updated local guidance for children and young people who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:

- The child or young person (unless exempt), is advised to stay at home if anyone in their household tests positive for COVID-19 (via either a PCR or LFD test).
- Five days after symptoms began in the household contact who tested positive (or test date if the positive case had no symptoms), the young person should get a PCR test.

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- If the PCR is negative, they can return to school, but should isolate again immediately and get another test if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 later.

OR

- Instead of isolating for the five days, children and young people who are contacts of household positive cases can take an LFD test each morning and if negative, attend school the same day (rather than staying at home). We will offer LFD tests for children affected at school each morning.
- If they develop symptoms of COVID-19, or receive a positive LFD test result, they should immediately isolate and get a PCR test.

Thank you for your support with the continued twice weekly testing at home for all students. If you require additional tests they can be collected from the main school office.

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Confirmation of Vaccination Date

Our vaccination date has now been confirmed, having been postponed from the previous allocated date and will take place on Thursday 4th November, Beacon Hill School in the morning and Solway School in the afternoon. Those students who have returned a parent signed consent form will be offered the vaccination in school that day. Students should eat breakfast on the morning of the 4th November before arriving to school and bring a bottle of water to school with them.

Further information on what student might expect following the vaccination is provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-what-to-expect-after-covid-19-vaccination>



[Information for children and young people on what to expect after COVID-19 vaccination - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-what-to-expect-after-covid-19-vaccination)

The NHS is offering the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine to all eligible children. This leaflet tells you what to expect after you have had your vaccination.

www.gov.uk

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind regards



Tom Hailwood
Headteacher