

16 December 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The end of term obviously sees us yet again looking into a somewhat uncertain few months ahead. Despite the current challenges we have enjoyed a good last few weeks and there are many positives to celebrate.

Our two-week period of assessments at the end of this term to complete learning cycle 1 went well and the vast majority of pupils have really 'stepped up' and pushed themselves academically. This is fundamental to learning and of course what as a school we're all about. This has included Year 11 and Sixth Form completing their Prep-Public Exams (or mocks in old language) and our external invigilators have been particularly impressed by the attitude and approach of our current year groups – "by far the best I've ever seen," in the words of several of our invigilator team.

We've just celebrated rewards' afternoons with all year groups and there have been fantastic dance performances and the Christmas concert. It's such a shame that these last two events could not be seen by parents and visitors, but performances to our own pupils were greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Once again, I feel immensely proud of the talents, aptitude and application of both our pupils and staff, who make these things happen. There will be filmed version of the dance shows and Christmas music performances on our website as soon as we can upload these.

COVID

Looking ahead, I need to update you on a few details regarding the pandemic and our way ahead. As you may be aware, the guidance regarding being a close contact has changed. Now, once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and pupils should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to us. If they test negative, pupils can continue to attend school. If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

NHS England have now confirmed that healthy school-aged children aged 12 to 15 will be able to receive their COVID-19 vaccination (first or second dose) in school next term, as well as having the option to receive the vaccine out of school through vaccination centres. These offers will run in parallel and we would encourage you to book your eligible children in for vaccinations as soon as you can, wherever you can.

We will be supplying LFD tests on the first day of term in January for all pupils, **Wednesday 5th January 2022**, and encouraging them all to do a test first thing in tutor time that morning, which we will enable to happen under hygienic conditions. This provides an extra level of safety in our attempts to minimise transmission. Please do keep testing at least twice weekly through the holiday, and I hope all of your families stay well!

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Osprey
Learning Trust 



HAF Christmas Programme

I have mentioned the Holiday Activities and Food Programme previously. There are a range of activities on offer including Santa experiences, food hampers, gift e-vouchers for families, boat trips, roller skating, sports schemes, holiday clubs, theatre and cinema tickets, meals out for families. Activities include the provision of a hot meal. Families can book places and find out more about the programme by clicking on this link - [Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) programme - Education and Families \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/holiday-activities-and-food-programme) Enquires or queries should be directed to the HAF mailbox - [childsc.holidayactivitiesfoodprogramme-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:childsc.holidayactivitiesfoodprogramme@mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

Behaviour Expectations Policy

Finally, I've alluded to our new behaviour policy and next steps in my previous communications. I will send out a separate letter explaining this with details of our new policy and approach shortly, before the start of next term. Please do read this and discuss with your sons/daughters as there are some important changes coming which will help all to do even better. We have made progress in improving our culture and ethos this term and we are going to be starting the new year with a bang as we raise expectations considerably and make this very transparent and clear. This is about TCS living our values of 'Thrive', 'Care' and 'Succeed'. It is about our school being up there with the best schools in the country where we expect the very best of every pupil. More will follow, but I'm really excited about what 2022 will bring and our move forward.

I hope you'll be able to really enjoy Christmas and something of a holiday. I've currently got my dad staying. His wife has been visiting her son and family, who have just tested positive for Covid. I may therefore have my dad over for ten days ... interesting times! Whatever your Christmas holds, I hope it will be happy and positive.

Best wishes



James O'Connell
Headteacher