

Head of School's Weekly Update 14 May 2021

FACE COVERINGS - UPDATED GUIDANCE

A letter regarding updated guidance on the wearing of face coverings in schools from 17th May has been emailed to all parents today.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



This week has been Mental Health Awareness Week. The theme for this year was 'Connecting with Nature'. From walking in the woods and sitting in the garden to caring for houseplants and even watching nature programmes, there are many ways we can find to connect with nature wherever we are.

Connecting with nature is not just about the amount of time we spend outdoors; it is also about building a relationship with nature by noticing and becoming sensitive to what is around us. We use our senses to do this. It is helpful to find our own, individual ways for connecting with nature that mean something to us.

Encouraging your child or young person to build in opportunities to connect with nature in everyday life can improve both the health of their bodies and their minds. Please see this [guide](#) with ideas and activities as to how to help your child connect to nature.

STUDENT GUIDE TO AWARDING GRADES: SUMMER 2021

This week, the government has released a useful student guide on the arrangements for the awarding of GCSE, A Level and Vocational grades this summer. This guide can be accessed [here](#).

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Walk to School Week

This week, Lennon and Laura in Year 12 have been hard at work putting together a presentation to raise awareness of Walk to School Week, next week. The purpose of this is to encourage as many of our students as possible to consider walking to school for the purposes of helping the environment, reducing their carbon footprint and promoting positive physical and mental health through exercise. We are asking for the support of parents and carers, where possible, to encourage our young people to take part in this school-wide challenge.

Northallerton Stories

A further reminder of our Northallerton Stories project that Rebecca, as part of the student council, is putting together. If anyone, parent, grandparent, uncle, niece has an interesting local story to tell, please do get in touch with us on northallertonstories@northallertonschool.org.uk. We are looking for one side of A4, and any accompanying photos would be welcomed.

Citizenship Challenge

A big thank you to Ellie, House Captain for Chapman house, for working in conjunction with Mr Maughan and Mr Welsh to develop our new house challenge - The Citizenship Challenge.

COVID - UPDATE

We have had **no** positive COVID cases reported in our school community this week. Students should continue to carry out a Lateral Flow Test at home on a Sunday night and a Wednesday night and report these home test results to the NHS on <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and also to the school by using the following link

<https://forms.gle/csVPoVWY8wYoUbvL9>.

We would ask that if your child receives a positive test result that you contact the school as soon as possible so that we can track and trace and quickly identify any close contacts. This can be done by either phoning the school on 01609 773340 or by sending an email to the school on the following email address response@northallertonschool.org.uk The household will also need to isolate and a PCR test should be arranged for your child at a local testing centre as soon as possible.

Please note that if your child is showing symptoms of COVID (temperature, cough, loss of taste or smell) then a PCR test needs to be arranged at a testing centre and you should not use a home LFT. This also applies if your child is sent home with COVID symptoms. The child (and household members) should self isolate until the result is received.

Thank you for your continued support with this. Updated DfE guidance for parents can be viewed [here](#)

We have also included a link [here](#) to a blog about the importance of testing and reporting which also features further guidance and common questions and details financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self isolate after contact with a positive case.

FREE "DR BIKE" SESSIONS

Stage 1 Cycles are providing **free "Dr Bike" sessions** in the Applegarth Long Stay Car Park, Northallerton on Saturday 22nd May. These are available for both adult and children's bikes and include up to 30 minutes' work checking the cycle is safe to ride and making minor repairs if necessary.

The Fire Service and Police will also be there offering road safety advice and property marking.

YEAR 10 & YEAR 12 PROGRESS EVENING - THURSDAY 20TH MAY 2021

Just a reminder that our second Progress Evening for parents of students in Year 10 and Year 12 is on Thursday 20th May 2021. If you have not already made appointments to speak (remotely) to subject teachers, these can still be arranged

using our new software 'SchoolCloud'. Please visit <https://nssfcs.schoolcloud.co.uk> and log in using the details provided to you. If you are experiencing any difficulties logging onto the system, please contact the school.

STUDENT DROP OFF/COLLECTION

Could we politely remind parents that if you are dropping a student off at school to avoid using the entrance on Grammar School Lane. This needs to be kept free for school buses and students to safely enter the school. Please use the parking bays beyond the school entrance. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Since returning to school on the 8th March 2021, we have had over 630 students who are 'Attendance HEROs' - **Here Everyday, Ready and Ontime**. This is an amazing achievement and we congratulate you all on having amazing attendance!

We would also like to make a special mention to the students in **9EMY, 10JKR, 10MWI, 11MLA** and **11TBU**, who have attendance of over 98%, which is outstanding and truly incredible! Well done to you all.

Attendance at school is crucial in ensuring that our students get the best quality of education and your support with encouraging and supporting our students to regularly attend school is greatly appreciated!

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large amount of lost property which has accumulated in school. If your child has lost any item of clothing, school uniform, PE kit, lunchbox, pencil case etc, please would you encourage them to go to our student reception to check if it has been handed in. Thank you.