

1st October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Even as the days are getting increasingly chillier, there continues to be a wonderful energy at NSG and it is hard to believe that we are already in October - this half term is flying by! As we approach the much colder days, can I take this opportunity to ask you to ensure that your child is wrapping up warmly with an NSG grey v-neck jumper, worn underneath their blazer. As much as possible, we will continue to encourage our students to take advantage of the fresh air at break times and lunch times and it remains our ongoing intention to keep our classrooms as ventilated as possible. Equally, as the days become darker, we would like to remind our students of the importance of personal safety and encourage them to walk home in pairs or as part of a small group if possible. In particular, the hedges along Bradlaugh Fields have become overgrown in recent months and are now covering the streetlights along the pathway that is frequently used by our students. We have recently been in contact with the local council to request that these are cut back, but this has not yet been done. We will continue to persist, persist, persist with this request!

We are currently seeing an increase in positive COVID cases in the local community and are monitoring this closely in our school so that we can respond to this increase in a proportionate way. For now, we will continue with the measures that we have in place. However, if there is a continued increase in local cases, we will upscale our preventative measures and I will write to you accordingly.

Vaccinations for 12-15 year olds

As I am sure many of you are aware from both the local and national press, agreement has been reached within the government that the COVID-19 vaccination programme will be extended to 12-15 year olds. The vaccination programme will be delivered by the NHS commissioned School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS), who has been working tirelessly to roll out vaccinations to 12-15 years olds in schools.

This week has seen the start of vaccinations being delivered in schools across the country, and SAIS will be contacting all remaining secondary schools across West Northamptonshire in the coming weeks to ensure that all children have been offered vaccinations by the beginning of November. As soon as we are contacted with further information and dates, I will share this with you though I must emphasise that as a school we are not responsible for securing parental or child consent; the SAIS team will be dealing with all aspects of the vaccination programme. There is no need for you to contact the school to let us know if you consent for your child to receive the COVID-19 vaccination - you will shortly receive a letter from the NHS regarding this.



Open Week

Next week we will be hosting a number of Open Week activities to welcome and showcase NSG to prospective future Year 7 students and their families. As part of this, we will be holding a series of face-to-face open evenings and day events throughout the week. These will include presentations as well as tours where our staff and 'NSG student ambassadors' will be acting as guides. Recordings of the virtual tours and presentations will also be available on our website under 'Admissions', on our 'School' page for those wanting to know more about our school. Full details regarding these events is available on our website:

<https://www.nsg.northants.sch.uk/school/admissions>

I would like to extend a very special thank you to all of the Year 7 students that will be supporting the event as ambassadors for the school, as well those that remain on our 'waiting list' eager to offer their contribution. I was, pleasingly, rather overwhelmed by the hundreds of volunteers! We are delighted to see so many of our newest students taking on this leadership opportunity.

Year 7 Freshers Evening

Thank you to all the Year 7 parents and carers who attended our Freshers Evening event earlier this week. We hope this provided a useful opportunity for you to, once again, meet with your child's tutor and learn more about the academic support we will be providing for your child. If you have any questions, or were not able to attend, please do not hesitate to contact your daughter's tutor who will be happy to provide you with advice or further information.

Even more extra-curricular offerings: Dungeons and Dragons

From literacy to numeracy to oracy to drama, Dungeons and Dragons club offers students a chance to broaden their horizons and expand their cultural capital. This tabletop role playing game teaches confidence, collaboration, and leadership skills through improvisational storytelling. New to NSG this year, we invite students of all ages to contact Ms. Savannah Edwards, sedwards@nsg.northants.sch.uk, if they would like more information.

In the next few weeks we will be sharing details with you about our future charity events, including our Eco-Council's new initiative 'Back on the Rack' which is scheduled to take place next month, as well as other important events that are taking place at the school. For now, I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

With best wishes,



Mrs Cristina Taboada-Naya
Headteacher

