

28th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope you are well and your children have enjoyed their first few weeks back at school. We have certainly enjoyed seeing them. Pupils have made an excellent start to our new school term demonstrating an enthusiastic, positive and cooperative attitude to their learning. I am delighted at how smart they look in their uniform, which they are wearing with pride and would like to thank parents for your support in making this happen.

Covid-19 update

The Academy's response to Covid-19 is detailed in our updated risk assessment which you can find on our website. Can I remind you of the continued need to carry out twice weekly tests at home with a lateral flow device.

The government's response has also been updated. There are two important points for you to be aware of; close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other settings, NHS Test and Trace will work with those identified as testing positive or their parents to identify close contacts. This means the Academy will not be contacting you to request that your child self isolates as a result of any positive cases. Secondly, all children aged between 12 to 15 years are being offered a first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine as part of the school-based COVID-19 vaccination programme. The School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) team will be making contact with you shortly to request consent and provide further information about the vaccination.

A consent form and information leaflet provided by the SAIS team will be used to seek parental consent. Parents will also be provided with a contact number for the SAIS team in case of any queries. Forms should be returned by the deadline agreed with the team. For further information on the vaccination programme please read the [government guidance for parents](#). The vaccinations will be managed by the SAIS team and will be administered by healthcare staff, the Academy, therefore has a very limited role in the process.

Attendance

Attendance expectations at Skinner's Academy are driven by a desire for all pupils to maximise the amount of learning opportunities that they receive. Our expectation is that pupils aim for a minimum of 98% attendance across the whole year and are on time, punctual and ready for school every day.

We employ a full-time school nurse who is available to support when pupils are feeling unwell and to prevent health concerns from being a barrier to attending school- please ensure that pupils make every effort to attend.

We believe that when we work together to reinforce this message, we can promote the best habits, outcomes and experiences of every pupil. To support this, we have a full-time attendance officer, Mr James Labadie, as well as our Education Welfare Officer, Ms Tracey Bacchus. Our pastoral teamwork alongside these staff members to work with you to ensure attendance is high and meeting expectations.

Principal: Shereka James
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2018-2021



Enrichment

Participating in extracurricular activities has a positive effect on pupil's success in school. It is of benefit to pupils both academically and socially. Young people who participate in extracurricular activities demonstrate higher levels of academic achievement, greater character development, greater social development, and a greater sense of the importance of community involvement.

The Academy organises events and educational visits, both here and abroad, in order to maximise the pupil's exposure to a variety of positive experiences, which will enrich them personally and develop their interpersonal skills. Please look out for further information regarding these opportunities in the near future.

We're excited to share out latest enrichment offer with you, which you can access on our website. Pupils should sign up to clubs by speaking with individual teachers running the enrichment activity or speak to their Personal Development teacher. We have a range of activities, so hope that everyone will find something of interest.

Yours faithfully,



Shereka James
Principal

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