



# Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

Our Ref: LDB / VM

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As ever, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. There is no doubt we are living through turbulent times and I hope you are finding ways to navigate safely through them.

## Flu and Covid vaccines

I had wanted to contact you with concrete information about the vaccine roll-out for 12-15-year olds, but at the time of writing, we have still not been given any definite dates for when the School Age Immunisation Team (SAIT) intend coming into school to administer the Flu and Covid vaccines. There is an indication that they *may* be visiting school to give the vaccines in November.

What we currently know from SAIT is as follows:

- The consent forms you will be asked to fill out will be on **paper**. SAIT will bring them into school and we will distribute them via your child/children. We have been made aware of a scam, online form, purporting to be from the NHS, which has been circulating this week. Please disregard it if you have been sent it. If you are asked to fill out any vaccine consent forms online, or by anyone outside of school, they are highly likely to be scams.
- SAIT will be providing a Flu vaccine *and* a Covid vaccine, and it is possible they will be administered at the same time. The Flu vaccine is administered in the form of a nasal spray and the Covid vaccine is administered as a jab.
- You will need to decide on consent separately for the Flu and the Covid vaccines. You can give permission for your child to have both vaccines, only the Flu vaccine, only the Covid vaccine or neither vaccine.
- Even if you are declining vaccines, please return your consent forms, otherwise SAIT may have to contact you.
- SAIT will not give either vaccine to any child without the correct consent form.

We have been trying to get more information over the past week, since I know you will be anxious to know more. As soon as we have any firm details, I will let you know immediately. In the meantime, if you have any questions about these two vaccines, please contact SAIT on the following email address:

[school.immunisation@nhs.uk](mailto:school.immunisation@nhs.uk). The following website may also be useful in finding out more about vaccination: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people>

## **Covid cases in school**

I have been keeping a very close watch on Covid cases in school and across Stafford, and I am sure you will be aware that confirmed cases have been rising in both. Stafford is currently classed as a hotspot, with over 3300 confirmed cases amongst 11-18 year olds since the start of term. Here in school, we have had only 70 confirmed cases in that time. What is tentatively encouraging is that the number of confirmed cases in our school has rapidly reduced since we reintroduced face coverings. In the last week we have had only 5 confirmed cases. Your children have stoically accepted the need to wear face coverings again, and I have warmly praised them for the selfless way they have done their bit to keep everyone safe. As soon as it looks like numbers are really going down, we will remove the need to wear face coverings. If numbers start to rapidly rise again, then we may have to go back to wearing them... such are the continuing unknowns of this pandemic.

My overriding priority as ever is to do all we can to reduce further serious disruption to education, and thus wearing face coverings is a relatively small price for us all to pay.

Please could I remind you of the following ways in which you can help your children and the school:

- Encourage them to take their twice weekly lateral flow tests. A new kit with 7 tests has been sent home this week.
- If they test positive on a lateral flow, please seek a follow-up PCR test, and keep them off until you get the result.
- If they show any symptoms, but have tested negative on a recent lateral flow, please seek a PCR test.
- If someone else in the household tests positive, your child can still come to school, but please step up lateral flow tests to daily, and seek a PCR test if unsure.

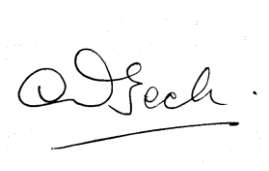
Here in school, we have countless sanitisation stations, our site staff are constantly going around cleaning hand-rails and common touch points and desks are wiped down each lesson. If and when we have to look to additional methods to stem transmission, we will do so.

I'll take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support of your children and the school. In comparison to many other schools, we have managed to keep significant disruption to a minimum. We have never had to send home year groups or even half year groups, and this is in large part due to the ways in which you have helped us to keep everyone safe.

I will be in touch again soon, no doubt.

My best wishes to you and your families

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Beck', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Mrs L Beck**  
**Headteacher**