



17 September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach the end of our third week back, although for many this will be the end of their second week, I would like to update you on a number of matters including the outcome of our in-school testing as well as our new Attitude to Learning scores. Before I do, I would like to welcome our new staff to Guilsborough. Those joining us this year have been listed, with their roles, at the end of this letter.

In-School Testing

I am pleased to report that a very small number of cases have been reported as a result of the two tests undertaken at the start of the term. The vast majority (over 95%) of students took the two tests meaning we completed over 2400 individual tests. Of these, only 7 came back positive with the students now completing a period of isolation. All our students completed the testing process quickly, enabling us to get them back into lessons and focusing on their learning.

Vaccinations

As has been reported in the media, vaccinations will be taking place in schools and academies for those aged 12-15 years old. A very small number of parents/carers have contacted me to stress that they do not give permission for their son/daughter to be vaccinated.

I want to stress that the vaccination programme will not be carried out by any member of Guilsborough Academy. Consent forms will be handled by the local health authority as will the actual vaccinations. The decision to vaccinate those aged 12-15 years old is a health decision endorsed by politicians. This decision has been taken to limit the impact COVID-19 continues to have on the education of these young people. However, no student will be forced to receive a vaccination. I have included in this letter a link to the information being shared by Public Health England.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017171/PHE_12073_COVID-19_guide_for_all_CYP.pdf

Attitude to Learning update

Our students have made an extremely positive start to the year. 13% of all Attitude to Learning grades have been a '1' which demonstrates outstanding attitude to learning. Moreover, out of the 21000+ individual ATL grades given during the first week, only 11 were the lowest grade 4.

We are sharing this information with the students through assemblies and celebrating the very positive start they have made to the year. As we said previously, we are working to make this information available to you through the Go4Schools web portal; Year 7 parents have been sent details on how to access Go4schools. Please do let us know via the info@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk email address if you have any issues logging on.

Fire Drills and Lockdown Practice

During this term we will be conducting our usual fire drills to ensure all students understand the procedures and are able to evacuate the buildings safely. However, we will also be conducting a lockdown practice. This details of this procedure are not shared for safety reasons but we will be working with our more vulnerable students to ensure they are prepared for the event. Any student who is particularly anxious during these types of activity will be supported in the run up to, and during, the lockdown.

Learning Without Limits

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Uniform

I would like to thank every parent / carer who has supported the academy by supplying the correct uniform for their children. The majority of our students are wearing Guilsborough Academy uniform with only a very small number of students in the lower year groups not complying. At the start of next week we will be speaking to individuals who are still not following the guidelines we set out in the summer term. Following this we will be making contact with their parents / carers.

If you are struggling, financially, to provide appropriate shoes, trousers, shirts etc, I encourage you to speak to us so that we may support those where this is necessary. Please contact principalpa@guilsborough.northants.uk

Parents' Evenings

During 2020/21 Parents' Evenings were adapted to enable them to be completed remotely. Having received a significant amount of positive feedback from parents who found them far easier to fit around other commitments, we are intending to continue to conduct Parents' Evenings remotely during this academic year. We would however, appreciate parent's views on this and so have prepared a short online survey which is available [here](#).

And Finally...

I was excited to hear singing from the Drama studio after school on Tuesday. It signaled a return to more 'normal' times and the start of our auditions for 'We will Rock You', more details to follow. The students were clearly enjoying the opportunity and I think a few were surprised as I could not resist joining in as they sang parts of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody. I do not think any of our talented students will be worrying that I may be selected for a part!

Other extra-curricular activities are also starting this term and we will share details of these with students and parents / carers.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Frazer

Principal

Miss	Baker	TA
Mr	Blackett	Teacher of Science
Mrs	Carr	Teacher of Spanish
Ms	Haddow	SENCo
Mr	Kenyon	IT Apprentice
Mrs	Mansfield	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr	Nellist	Teacher of Science
Mr	Piggon	Teacher of Sociology
Mr	Reynolds	Head of Physics
Miss	Roby	Cover Supervisor
Miss	Rowinski	High Level TA
Miss	Sprague	Teacher of English
Mrs	Stewart	Assistant Head of Sixth Form and Teacher of English
Mr	Sutherland	Pastoral Support Officer
Miss	Vickers	HOY and Teacher of Physical Education