



21 October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

**Half term updates
(Including: Vaccinations, Fireworks, Key Dates)**

Thank you for your continued support during this first half term.

We are incredibly proud of our students who have returned to school with very positive and determined attitudes. We have had a drive on ensuring our students wear their uniform with pride and our school community have certainly modelled this alongside a real focus to learn. Our On-TRACK values are on display every day at Rooks Heath School.

A lot of work has gone into professional development for teaching and learning as we recover from the disrupted academic year and also into our culture and ethos. Our Booster sessions for identified examination students in Years 11, 12 and 13 have begun and we are about to approach a mock examination season for Year 11. As you know, this year is critical for our school as it proves very likely that we will have formal examinations in summer 2022. Please encourage your children to use the resources and strategies shared with them by their teachers, to enable them to feel fully prepared for these exams.

As half term is approaching I wanted to give you a brief update and some reminders.

Vaccinations:

The NHS will be on site to administer the vaccinations to students (where consent is / has been provided) between the ages of 12 – 15 on Friday 22nd October. If you have provided consent for your child to receive the Covid-19 vaccination, please ensure they attend school wearing a short-sleeved school shirt.

During the half term, the local authority will make pop-up centres available for anyone who wishes to take up the Covid-19 vaccine. These take place on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th October. Please see the attached letter from the NHS for the details.

Our Covid-19 measures continue to be successfully implemented this term, albeit with much relaxation in some areas and our students have shown maturity and resilience as we have returned to a more normal school life.

As parents and carers, you have kept us informed of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 and we are grateful. Please remember to send us confirmation of any positive cases.

Please continue to follow the advice on symptomatic individuals and please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. Your cooperation with this is much appreciated.

Fireworks

As we approach Diwali and Guy Fawkes Night we have concerns about the safety of our students. Fireworks are extremely dangerous. Every year, hundreds of people suffer serious burns and eye injuries. This is why it



is illegal to buy fireworks if you are under 18 years old. Sparklers and snappers are classed as fireworks and the same laws apply. It is also illegal for under 18s to possess fireworks in a public place.

We have made it clear to students that any involvement with fireworks is a serious breach of the school's behaviour code that may lead to the permanent exclusion of any students found to be involved. Please note that we regard "snappers", "smoke bombs" or any other type of similar item as a form of firework.

Bringing fireworks into school is a very serious matter which will not be tolerated. It would be a shame to have to apply a sanction after such a positive start to the academic year.

We will also take action if students are in possession of fireworks before or after school, including their journey to school and their journey home.

We appreciate your support in this serious matter and request that you discuss these matters with your child so that they are fully aware of the dangers of fireworks and the law about buying and using them. In doing so we will ensure the safety of our staff, students and community.

Black History Month

Speaking of our community, in honour of Black History Month, our students have engaged in a number of activities across the curriculum. The theme for our community this year was Contributions to the UK. Form time activities included learning about the Bristol Boycotts, contributions from elite British black athletes and participating in a Black History month knowledge quiz.

This half term brings us a nice short pause, an opportunity for examination students to do some deep revision, for our younger students to catch up on learning so far and for everyone to have some family time. I thought it would be useful to provide you with some key dates leading up to the end of the autumn term and the longer holiday period.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish members of our Hindu Community a Happy Diwali in advance and for everyone to have a pleasant half term break.

Key dates:

Thursday 18 th November	Rooks Heath Winter Music Concert
Tuesday 23 rd November	Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) 6pm
Monday 22 nd November	Mock Examinations for Year 11 begin
Friday 26 th November	Academy Day – School Closed to students
Friday 17 th December	End of Autumn Term
Tuesday 4 th January	Start of the Spring Term 2022

Yours sincerely

Mrs Miriam Manderson
Headteacher