

# Malmesbury School

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Headteacher: Brett Jouny

BJ/rem  
15 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As term one draws to a close and we look forward to our October half term break I wanted to reflect on the last six and a half weeks.

I know the staff here at school have worked very hard to ensure that the return after the summer break was seamless and this has been really evident in the great attendance and exemplary behaviour of our students. The high standards of behaviour and uniform have been key to the strong start to this academic year and I am grateful to all parents for their support in our endeavours. As the new headteacher, I am constantly reviewing the processes of the school and will take time over the course of the year to listen to feedback and see how we can further improve our offer here at Malmesbury School.

Visiting lessons and seeing our students engaged and learning has been an absolute highlight of the term for me. A real focus on what happens in the classroom is the key to success for all students and I feel the standard of teaching and support offered by all staff here is exceptional.

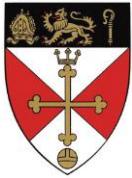
Outside of the classroom, it has been great to see extracurricular activities back underway in school; sporting fixtures, musical rehearsals and a wide variety of brilliant clubs, enable all students to access experiences which will stay with them for the rest of their lives. I am excited that over the course of the year the clubs on offer will broaden, and trips will commence.

All of the above has been achieved in the context of the pandemic, and we have been monitoring the case numbers in school and the local community closely, to ensure that we are doing all we can to minimise the impact on our students and staff. We have taken steps, in consultation with Public Health Wiltshire and in line with our contingency framework, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and we feel these have had a positive impact. After half term, we have decided to keep our temporary measures in place to give us time to assess the impact the half term may have had on case numbers. We will continue to:

- Ask students and staff to wear face coverings inside the school building, except in classrooms. (unless they are exempt)
- Pause face-to-face assemblies and mass gatherings that are not vital
- Use the one-way system around the school and keep the year group specific zones and serveries at lunch and breaktime
- Promote good hand hygiene and the “Catch it, bin it, kill it” message
- Promote twice weekly home testing, offering test kits to all students and staff – please can students continue to test over half term also



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We will maintain these measures until **Monday 15 November**, when we will once again review the number of confirmed cases in school and update parents as to whether any measures will be 'stepped down'. Every action we take is purely precautionary and we have the safety of all students and staff in mind when we take any decision.

Public Health Wiltshire has this week informed us that they are aware of a potential issue with positive lateral flow test results followed by negative PCR test results. This is being investigated nationally. Their advice is that if a pupil or staff member has been in close contact with a positive case (such as a household member), are displaying COVID symptoms and have tested positive on a LFD (but subsequently test negative on a PCR) they are treated as COVID positive, and it is now recommended they isolate for 10 days.

Can we please also ask that when reporting an absence, you are clear what the absence relates to and if it is COVID related, as these are recorded in a specific way to allow us to spot any possible patterns of transmission.

We are still waiting for a confirmed date for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. As soon as we are informed of a date this will be shared with parents along with the system used to grant permission. This is a personal choice for families and something we very much respect. Virgin Care, the company managing the process will handle all permissions and questions.

Finally, I am already looking forward to next term, one that will see our prizegiving event for those who left us in the summer, as well as the festivities and events linked to Christmas. I am excited to attend the Christmas concerts and launch some of the events which will be of benefit to all students.

Have a restful and safe half term break.

Yours sincerely

Brett Jouny  
Headteacher



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