



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear West Park Families

We are now well over halfway through our first half-term of this academic year and staff and pupils have settled back positively in to our well-established routines. The school continues to be a very harmonious place and as always, I have been hugely impressed by the resilience of our amazing pupils.

Although day-to-day life is moving forward positively, we are still dealing with a number of challenges that are being thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic. As previously stated, we have had a number of positive cases at the school and we have been working hard to support these pupils and their families whilst maintaining a continuity of education for all. We are all very grateful for the diligence of the West Park community to do the right thing and to proactively communicate with us as promptly as possible. Please remember the following if you are dealing with a positive Covid case in the household.

COVID-19 Alert

If your child has Covid symptoms or has been identified as a close contact. Please do the right thing for Derby by taking the steps listed below:

- Visit [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to get a free PCR test whether you have symptoms or not. You can book a test at a Local Testing Site or request a home testing kit.
- Isolate if you have symptoms or test positive and inform the school. If you have to isolate, the Derby Community Hub can provide support.
- Keep washing your hands. At this time of year, common respiratory illnesses (coughs, colds and flu) are circulating and hand washing is a key way to stop these spreading.
- Consider limiting contact with people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.
- Try to meet people from outside your household outdoors rather than indoors.

We continue to ask staff and pupils to do lateral flow test on Wednesday and Sunday evenings and to report any positive results on to us at the school.

We had the Covid vaccination team in school on Tuesday 28th September to administer the vaccine to those who had been given consent. This was another significant undertaking, alongside the co-ordination of a normal school day but due to the organisation, flexibility and diligence of our staff, the day operated smoothly. The visiting NHS team were hugely impressed by our school and the

polite and respectful manner of our pupils. There will be a catch-up day for pupils who have been given consent but who missed out on getting the vaccine. The date, time and venue for this is still to be confirmed. Pupils who are already 16 can book their vaccinations by accessing the NHS link below:

The Department of Health and Social Care announced on Friday 24 September that all 16 and 17 year olds can now book their first COVID-19 vaccination appointment [online](#).

Young people aged 16 and 17 can:

- [book their COVID-19 vaccination appointments online](#) for an appointment at a vaccination centre or pharmacy
- [find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#) to get vaccinated without needing an appointment

If students cannot book appointments online, they can call 119 free of charge. They can speak to a translator if they need to. Further information can be found on the [NHS website](#).

Covid is still around us but we continue to work creatively to offer our pupils a range of unique experiences. Some of our Year 7s and art staff have been contributing to the new art work that is brightening up the Spondon Linear path. Our Year 11 geographers have engaged with active field work to support their final exam. Pupils in all years have excelled in a multitude of sporting activities and a plethora of pupils are coming in early to access breakfast and to start their school day positively.

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid position we have had to postpone our Post-16 evening and adapt our model for our Governors' awards. We continue to be committed to facilitating events like these and will continue to offer weekly updates on what can/will take place.

On top of our upcoming Year 8 and 10 parents' evenings we can now announce the date for our first Year 11 parents' evening of the Year. This will take place on Tuesday 23rd November from 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m., and will be an online offer through our Schoolcloud platform. Mr Sanderson will be sending out specific details regarding the Year 11 parents' evening shortly. This event will lead into the Year 11 mock exam series which will run from 6th December to 22nd December. Individual timetables will be provided to Year 11 pupils.

In this strange world that we are all living in there are bursts of normality that are surprisingly reassuring. West Park pupils continue to impress, Tigger, the self-appointed school cat continues to hibernate in the site team office, Aberdeen football club still can't buy a win and the new Year 7s find it impossible to spell Mr McGregor (McGorgon, McGregory and McGroogly are some of my personal favourites).

Keep battling forward everyone and keep focusing on the positive.

Scott McGregor