

EM WL 7.1.22

Dear parent/carers,

I hope you are all well and enjoyed the break. It has been a lovely first week back in school – the students have been fantastic! The behaviour around school has been exemplary – I have been blown away on my daily walks around school at how well students are working and how focused they are in lessons.

We had the second half of our reward trip go out to ice-skating yesterday after it was unable to take place before Christmas. Students had a fantastic time, as did the staff who went too!

As per the government guidance masks will be required in school until at least the next review of 26 January so please make sure your child has masks and spares in school. Also, for those students taking part in the twice weekly testing lateral flow tests are available from the school office for students at the end of the school day 1 box per fortnight. Please note the absence line is no longer available to report your child's absence this should now be done via class charts – information on how to do this is attached to this letter.

As a school, we want our students to really understand our key values of 'kindness, knowledge and aspiration' and what they mean within Birchwood, as well as in the wider world. This term, we will be moving onto exploring the value of knowledge through a variety of different mediums. This will include understanding more about the value through poetry, proverbs, allusions, and artwork. Students will have a values assembly each week in form-time to enable them to explore and discuss each topic further.

Covering the PSHE curriculum is a statutory requirement of all schools. We cover some of this content via form time and the rest is covered during the PSHE drop-down days. This term, each year group will cover the following as part of their weekly PSHE form time lesson.

Year 7 - Self-efficacy, taking care of yourself and the importance of routines, health and prevention and dental health.

Year 8 - Management of conflict, different types of long-term relationships and communicating within relationships.

Year 9 - Being respectful within relationships, bullying and unacceptable behaviours within relationships.

Year 10 - Stereotypes with a focus on unconscious bias and gender.

Year 11 - Mental health and wellbeing.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and hopefully this rain will clear up for us!

Best wishes and take care,



Emma Mills

Dates for your diary and other information.

Also attached with today's letter :-

further information on the school immunisation team regarding covid vaccines for 12- 15 years.

Information to how to report your child absence on class charts

Extra-curricular timetable for this term.

### **Diary dates**

- 13 January 2022 - College review day year 12 and year 13
- 13 January 2022 - Year 11 and Year 10 College Open evening 6.00pm- 8.00pm
- 20 January 2022- Covid Vaccines for students with consent aged 12-15
- 27 January 2022 – Year 10 Performance review evening 3.30-7.00pm more information to follow next week on class charts.
- 3 February 2022- all years PHSE Drop down day
- 10 February 2022- Year 9 Futures evening - information regarding options and Performance review evening.
- 21 February 2022- 25 February 2022 inclusive School closed for half term holiday.