

PURCELL PARENT NEWSLETTER

19th November 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach our Exeat weekend, it seems timely to get in touch to update you on a few matters, to ask your help with a few things and to invite you to take part in a school-wide initiative we will be running next week.

Current Covid Situation

As I write, we remain under the care of the local Public Health authority and the restrictions on visitors and external events are still in operation. We very much hope and expect these to be lifted early next week if no further cases emerge in the coming days. We are anticipating our forthcoming London concerts will be able to go ahead and are working on this basis. Let's keep all crossed that we're moving in the right direction!

As I informed you last week, we have increased the level of Lateral Flow Testing for boarders to ensure that any cases of asymptomatic Covid infection are identified quickly. I'd like to remind Parents and guardians of boarders that the school does not have facilities to isolate any boarding student who tests positive, either while they await a confirmatory PCR test or for the extended period of self-isolation should a positive LFT result be confirmed.

In the event of a positive Lateral Flow Test, parents or

guardians will be contacted to collect the student, and asked to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. Once the result is known, we can plan the next steps together, but guardians are respectfully reminded that they may need to enable an international student to isolate in their care and away from school, for the full, mandatory 10 day period.

We will also contact the parents and guardians of those who are close contacts of any student who returns a positive Lateral Flow Test. Typically, this means students in shared rooms. Parents or guardians of 'close contacts' may be asked to facilitate a PCR test, or to temporarily keep students at home (or enable attendance as day students), subject to regular LF testing, while rooms are deep cleaned.

Day Students should, of course, continue to carry out, and register, regular Lateral Flow Tests; a minimum of three times weekly is recommended, in line with boarding students. Lateral Flow test kits can

be easily ordered online or collected from pharmacies.

We would ask that students carry out, and register, LFTs before returning to school on Sunday night or Monday morning at the end of the coming exeat.

As we continue to seek to manage the risks around Covid infection, parents and guardians of boarders are reminded that students should have with them:

- Individual, reusable water bottle
- Washable, reusable face masks
- Individual crockery (mugs, bowl etc) for use in house common rooms (and the ability to wash up after use!)

Absence Requests

Can I also please remind you that if a student is invited to participate in a concert or other event independently of the School, an absence request needs to be made by their parent or guardian

via studentabsence@purcell-school.org for us to be able to grant authorisation. This enables us to be sure there are no clashes with school events, no adverse impact on academic work and

that the proposed event is advantageous to the student. This is especially important for boarders for whom we may need to manage travel arrangements and ensure they can participate safely.

Winter Weather

Autumn is now well and truly with us! The leaves are falling from the trees and colder weather is setting in. Please remember that all boarders will need clothing with them which

is appropriate to the season, such as warm and waterproof coats and decent footwear. The grass areas are very wet at the moment, and boarders who play outside regularly are likely

to need changes of trainers or other footwear, as any one pair becomes too wet to wear.

Christmas Holidays

Parents and guardians of boarders are reminded that rooms in boarding houses will need to be cleared of all

student possessions at the end of this term: everything must be taken home! This is to enable a thorough holiday

clean of the boarding houses to take place.

Charity Initiative

The boarding team in Sunley House is planning a charity Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 10th December in support of [Save the Children](#) Fund. All students, day and boarding, (and staff) are encouraged to pay £1 and wear the brightest and most

festive Christmas jumper they can! It would be great if you could support this excellent charity initiative by making sure that boarding students return to school after the break with some suitable knitwear in which to shine!

To make donating easier and safer this year we've set up our own Just Giving page. If you would like to donate directly, on behalf of your child, (or indeed in your own right!) you can do so [here](#).



Parents' Evenings

We have taken the decision to continue to run Parents' Evenings online for this term and will review how to proceed in the new year. The dates of these evenings are as follows:

Friday 3rd December - Year 13
Friday 28th January - Year 11
Friday 4th February - Year 12
Friday 4th March - Year 10
Friday 18th March - Year 9
Friday 6th May - Year 7 & Year 8

Gratitude Week

On Monday of next week, we will be launching "Gratitude Week" at school. The purpose of this initiative is to encourage us all to reflect on those aspects of our school life which we particularly appreciate and provide the opportunity for all of us to express our appreciation of each other and to recognise those who make such a positive impact on our daily experience. Students and staff will be undertaking a variety of activities from creating a school wide "Gratitude Wall", reflecting on what they appreciate in each lesson, music activity and in House and, in tutorials, will be considering how kindness and respect are a positive force for good within a community. Prefects will be facilitating a

Gratitude Video project which they will share via the School intranet.

I would very much like each and every one of you to contribute so that the whole school community - staff, students and parents - have taken part. Therefore, I invite you to reply to the email through which this Newsletter was sent with a short statement about one aspect of school life for which you feel grateful or especially appreciate. It could be anything from an appreciation of the concerts we host, an aspect of academic life, the experience your son or daughter has in boarding, or simply being grateful that your child is happy here. I

would encourage you to be thoughtful and creative, but please avoid referring to any specific individual by name (no matter how wonderful they may be) because we will integrate all your comments anonymously into the gratitude wall along with those of students and staff. It should create a really significant display in the heart of the school.

It is easy to feel there is much to be despondent about in the world today, so this is our small way of giving ourselves a bit of a mid-term morale boost! I do hope you will participate and look forward to your responses.

With all good wishes,



Paul Bambrough
Principal

