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Headteacher: Mrs J Hadlow  
*A Colfe's Associate School*



Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

#### **COVID-19 vaccination – Update and information session**

With the announcement of COVID-19 vaccination now being available for all 12-15 year olds, I want to make you aware of plans for this in Lewisham and how you can access more information, including an online information session on **Thursday 16 September at 5.00pm. The school will be hosting this and we will be supporting the Zoom meeting so that hopefully all your questions can be answered.**

The Zoom link for this Parent's Information session starting at 5.00pm from the school is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85861196167?pwd=WjZ6RjZpVzVWVnZiWklVSEMyYkp3dz09>

#### **Vaccinating children and young people 12 years and over to reduce the risk of school absence**

As you may have read, everyone aged 12 and over will be offered a COVID-19 vaccination. This will start on 22 September and follows UK Chief Medical Officers guidance that the risks of vaccination are outweighed by the potential damage from further school absence and loss of education.

A recent survey suggested one in two children aged 10-15 years feel that they have fallen behind in education, with two in three feeling under pressure to catch up. We know that the education of Lewisham children and young people has been similarly negatively impacted through school closures and isolating at home. Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against COVID-19 and so getting your child vaccinated is the best way to keep them safe and not miss school.

#### **Vaccination of children and young people in Lewisham**

As decided by the Chief Medical Officer, children aged 12-15 will just need a single dose of vaccine and we are making it as easy as possible for them to get vaccinated.

You will receive an invitation to consent for your child via their school. It's really important that you have a conversation with your child about consent for the vaccine. The nurse will discuss the COVID-19 vaccine with your child at their appointment and will be able to answer any questions they may have.

*Your school, Your time, Your future*

In addition to having COVID-19 vaccination in school, we are offering COVID-19 vaccinations to all young people in Lewisham aged 12 years and over at one of our walk-in clinics. Further information will follow.

### **Still undecided and / or have questions?**

It is understandable that you may have concerns or questions about COVID-19 vaccination, either for your children or also yourself. There are a number of ways to find out more:

- *Online information session* – A Lewisham healthcare professional is hosting an online information session for parents, carers, students and staff on **Thursday 16 September at 5.00pm. This is being done jointly with the school, and the Headteacher Mrs Jane Hadlow will also be there as well. The school have already been in contact with all parents about this and will be sending the link out.** It is also included at the beginning of this letter.
- *South-east London Vaccine Facts* – The NHS in South East London has established a website with information at [nhselondonvaccinefacts.com](https://nhs.uk/selondonvaccinefacts).
- *Lewisham vaccination helpline* - You can also book a free, impartial and confidential conversation with a Lewisham healthcare professional in one of over 200 languages. [Book online](#) or by calling 07828 499044.

Yours faithfully

*Jane C. Hadlow*

**Jane Hadlow**  
**Headteacher**

Dr Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health for Lewisham

