



The Lowry Academy
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Weekly Parent Communications



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Principal's Notes

Dear Families,

As we approach the last week of term, I want to take a moment to celebrate our students' achievements and thank you for your continued support. We're incredibly proud to have a record number of students maintaining 100% attendance, and it would be great to keep this going! Attendance is a key factor in student progress, so let's work together to finish the term strong.

Last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming visitors from Australia and Tasmania, including Jo Palmer, Minister for Education. The delegates toured lessons, spoke with our students, and met senior leaders. I'm happy to share that they were very impressed with what they saw at The Lowry Academy.

This week, on Monday, half of Year 7 have enjoyed a fun and active day at Haigh Hall. The other half of the year group are attending today, and I'm hoping the weather is kind to them.

Next week, we have over 30 students heading off on a three-day residential trip to Castle Head in Cumbria. This will be a fantastic opportunity for them to enhance their Geography knowledge in an exciting, hands-on way.

Ahead of the half-term break, we'll be sending out a letter next week with some important school updates for after the holidays. Please keep an eye for this. We'll also be holding assemblies to ensure students are fully informed.

Year 11 parents, please don't miss the letter from Mrs Aylward in this week's communications—it includes essential details on revision and the upcoming exams.

As always, if you have any comments or questions, feel free to get in touch. I hope all our students enjoy a well-earned break when half term arrives.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,
Claire Coy





Content List

Date: Friday 11th October 2024

School Information	Year Group relevant to	Page Number
Mock Exams – Important Information	Year 11	4 - 6
Flu Vaccinations – letter from Salford City Council, Flu information and link to vaccination consent form	Year 7 – 11	7 - 9
Upcoming Events	Year Group relevant to	Page Number
Dates for your Diary	Year 7 - 11	10



School Information

Dear Parents,

With only **16 school days** left until the mock exams begin, it is vital your child is in school & ready to learn. We are really proud of our Year 11's and their effort and determination to succeed so far. Please see below for key points to consider in the run up to their mock exams:

Attendance

Thank you so much for your ongoing support to ensure your child attends school on time, every day, at 8.25am. 110 students have had 100% - a huge well done!

If your child has taken a day off so far, statistically, they are trending to take more than a week off this academic year. Please ensure you are encouraging resilience in attending school every day – we will support your child with whatever they need whilst they are here. **Those students that achieved Grade 5's in both English & Maths had an attendance figure of 96% or above over the whole of Year 10 and Year 11. For context, this means no more than 3 days off throughout the whole two-year period.**

The single most important thing you can do as a parent to support your child's education is ensure they are in school – our teachers will take care of the rest.

A reminder that attendance to school every day is an expectation – we do understand that there are occasions where children are too unwell to attend school and authorise those one-off occasions. If your child is persistently absent from school, we will require medical evidence to support this. We want to be transparent with parents now that taking time off school regularly, without medical evidence, could result in your child not meeting the criteria for end of term reward events and end of year reward events such as Prom.

Homework

As we approach the end of term, it is vital your child keeps on top of completing their weekly homework: Sparx English, Sparx Maths and Sparx Science. Simply put, doing more practice of these subjects will result in better progress. Our data shows us that those students that completed 95% and above of their homework performed on average two grades better than their peers with lower homework completion rates.

The vast majority of our Year 11 students are consistently completing this – well done!

A reminder that completing homework regularly and on time is an expectation – if students do not meet these expectations consistently, this could result in them not meeting the criteria for end of term reward events and end of year reward events.



Christmas Reward

We know how hard our students are working and we want to give them a reward for this. For those that qualify, we will be taking students to the Trafford Centre next half-term for a Christmas shopping trip, where they can spend their time as they wish shopping, in the arcades or in the food court. We will confirm more details after the half-term.

Please be aware, the criteria for all rewards is:

- Good attendance & punctuality to school
- Good behaviour and conduct
- Consistent completion of homework
- Attendance to all Period 6 sessions

Revision

Please ensure your child is regularly revising for their mock exams. Students have been provided with the following to aid their revision:

- A weekly revision checklist (see all given out so far attached to this email). This guides students on exactly what to focus their revision on that week. Please note, this includes ALL subjects - some of which your child does not study. They should only revise for the subjects they study
- Revision guides for every text for English Literature
- A revision folder, with a notepad and flashcards
- A "golden quotations" flashcard booklet for English Literature
- A knowledge organiser with information about all key texts for English Literature
- Past papers for Maths & English Language
- Access to the Maths Padlet page - this includes links to useful websites they can use for Maths Revision - click the following link to access this: [Padlet](#)
- Access to Sparx Maths, Sparx Science & Seneca Learning (for English and many other subjects) - students are expected to complete this weekly
- Microsoft Teams - lots of revision resources can be found in subject folders in the Year 11 year group team.

English Revision

Students should be completing Practice papers for English Language Paper 2.

For English Literature, students should be revising An Inspector Calls, and the Power & Conflict Poetry cluster. They can use their revision guides, knowledge organisers & golden quotation flashcards to help with this.



Maths Pre-Seen/Unseen Paper Revision

As we approach mock 1, our exam preparation begins this week. To this aim, we begin a process of pre-seen / unseen papers, a proven revision tool to improve exam technique. The teacher will model approximately 35 marks of a chosen paper in class. Students should then take these home and revise the methods for each question.

The following week students will independently answer the same questions, with different numbers, during period 6. Each class will be set a minimum score they must achieve to show they have been revising the paper. Please speak to your child about the importance of this process as it will ensure the best chance in the mocks of achieving success.

Thank you for your continued support.

R Aylward

Mrs Aylward

Vice Principal – Quality of Education

[Back to contents page](#)

Dear Parents,

If you have a child aged 2 or 3 years old you should receive a letter in September or October from your GP inviting your child for a free nasal influenza vaccination. We would encourage you to ensure your child receives this protective vaccine; this will help to prevent the spread of influenza in children and also in friends and relatives who may be at risk of complications from influenza. It will also prevent time spent away from work looking after a sick child, if applicable.

The nasal spray influenza vaccine is also available for all school aged children and offered routinely to all children in school. The vaccine is given as a single dose of nasal spray squirted up each nostril. **This is not a needle** (a big advantage for children), the nasal spray works even better than the injected influenza vaccine. The vaccine is very safe with few side effects and has been used for a number of years in the UK.

It's quick and painless and will mean your child is less likely to become ill, resulting in less time away from school, if they come into contact with the influenza virus. Its brand name is Fluenz.

Children are good at spreading influenza, because they tend to sneeze everywhere and don't use tissues properly or wash their hands. Vaccinating them may also protect others that are vulnerable to influenza such as babies, older people, pregnant women and people with serious long-term illnesses. A common complication of influenza can be bronchitis; occasionally this can become serious and develop into pneumonia and even cause death.

Questions and answers are on the back of this letter that will hopefully answer any queries you may have. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your GP, school nurse or Health Visitor.

If anyone you know falls into the at-risk groups encourage them to have the influenza vaccine to prevent them becoming ill.

Yours faithfully



Gillian McLauchlan
Deputy Director of Public Health

What is Influenza (flu)?

Flu is caused by a virus and cannot be treated with antibiotics. The most common symptoms of flu are fever, chills, headache, aches and pains in the joints and muscles, and extreme tiredness. Healthy individuals usually recover within 2 to 7 days but for some the disease can lead to hospitalisation, permanent disability or even death.

Can I avoid flu?

The best way to avoid catching and spreading flu is by having the vaccination before the flu season starts!

If I get flu how do I reduce the risk of spreading it to someone else?

To prevent spread: cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when you sneeze or cough, dispose of the tissues and then wash your hands. “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.”

Who should have the flu vaccination?

Even if you feel healthy you should have the free flu vaccination if you are:

From 1 September 2024:

- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2024
- primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6)
- secondary school aged children (from Year 7 to Year 11)
- all children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to less than 18 years

From October 2024, exact start date to be confirmed by NHS England in due course:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the [Green Book, Influenza Chapter 19](#))
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer’s allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme

How do I get the flu vaccine?

The vaccines should be given during October or early November. If you fit the above criteria speak to your GP or Practice Nurse to book a vaccination appointment and get the best possible protection.

How effective is the flu vaccine?

The annual flu vaccination will protect you against flu this coming winter. No vaccine is 100% effective; however, people who have had the flu vaccine are less likely to get flu. If you do get flu despite having the vaccine, it will probably be milder than if you haven’t been vaccinated.

Flu vaccines side effects – what are they?

The flu vaccine does not cause flu. However, you may experience some mild side effects after having the vaccine, such as a slight temperature and cold-like symptoms for a couple of days afterwards. The flu vaccine only protects against flu, but not other illnesses caused by other viruses such as the common cold.

Can the flu vaccine be given to my child at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes. The flu vaccine can be given at the same time as all routine childhood vaccines. The vaccination can go ahead if your child has a minor illness such as a cold but may be delayed if your child has an illness that causes a fever.

[Back to contents page](#)

School Information

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As part of the NHS National Immunisation schedule, we are offering flu vaccine in both primary and secondary schools. This will be delivered in schools during the winter months.

Monday 9th December 2024



Nasal (recommended)

The nasal spray flu vaccination is most effective in preventing flu in children and recommended by the NHS

Please click [Yes - Nasal](#) to complete a nasal flu consent form



If your child cannot have the nasal flu vaccine due to religious beliefs or dietary reasons then there is an alternative available

Please click [Yes - Injectable](#) to complete an injectable consent form

No

If you do not wish your child to have either of these vaccinations.

Please complete a [No](#) form.

Please select one option per child. A parent or guardian ideally needs to respond with consent/dissent, but you do not have to. If you do respond then you MUST sign the response.

Included with this consent form is the NHS leaflet for you to read if you wish to know more about the vaccination, please go to www.intrahealth.co.uk/fluleaflet2023.

If after returning the consent form your child's health changes or your child moves school, please contact our Immunisation team on the telephone number (0333 358 3397).

This vaccination is not routinely given in your GP practice unless your child has a pre-existing long term health condition. All children are eligible for the vaccine in School.

PLEASE NOTE, IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED AN ELECTRONIC OR PAPER FLU CONSENT THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, YOU DO NOT NEED TO PROVIDE CONSENT AGAIN

[Back to contents page](#)

Diary dates

Please make a note of the following dates, further information will be sent to families closer to specific events:

Date(s)	Relevant to	Event
Wednesday 16th October	Year 8	Nurses in School – HPV vaccination
Friday 18th October	All Families	School closes for half-term at 3pm
Monday 21st – Friday 25th October	All Families	Half-Term
Monday 28th October	All Families	School re-opens, all students to be in school for normal registration time
Wednesday 30th October	Year 7 – 9	Key Stage 3 Halloween Disco
Thursday 7th November	Year 7	Settling in Evening
Monday 25th November	Year 8	Nurses in School – HPV catch ups
Thursday 5th December	Year 11	Parents Evening
Monday 9th December	All Families	Nurses in school – flu vaccination
Thursday 19th December	All Families	Last Day in School

[Back to contents page](#)