

3 September 2021 – Update for GC students and parents/carers

To all GC students and parents/carers

Dear all,

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

Ahead of the start of the new term, I am writing to you with some important information.

Greenhead College NHS COVID-19 vaccination pop-up session

I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting a walk-in NHS COVID-19 vaccination pop-up session for students on **Friday, 10 September** in **R20** (top-floor of Rostron building) from **11.00 am to 3.00 pm**.

The vaccination pop-up is open to all Greenhead College students aged 16-and-17 years, who have yet to have had their dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

It is also open to students who are 17¾ years-and-older, and those aged 16-and-17 who are at higher risk of serious COVID-19 and are eligible for their first or second dose. (Second doses are eight weeks or more after the first.)

The vaccine being offered is Pfizer-BioNTech. One dose of vaccine has been shown to provide 80% protection against hospitalisation from COVID-19. Protection could be even higher, as younger people respond better to vaccines and some will already have had the COVID-19 infection, meaning they will have an even better response to the first dose.

Within two weeks of the NHS routinely offering COVID-19 vaccination to 16-and-17-year-olds, over 360,000 young people have taken up the offer and received their vaccination.

No appointment is required and students can just 'walk-up', providing they are not in lessons at the time. However, we recommend that students discuss having the vaccine with their parents/carers beforehand. Please note that having a COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement for attending Greenhead College.

Further information about the vaccination programme for young people can be found [here](#), as well as on page two of this message.

We cannot answer specific questions about the vaccine. Therefore, if students and/or parents/carers have further questions, please contact a member of the Cathedral House NHS vaccination team on 01484 467320. Students will also be able to ask members of NHS staff about the vaccine and vaccination at the pop-up session itself.

Further COVID-19 vaccination-related information and links

- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that 16-and-17 year-olds should be offered one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.
- No proof of identity is required for vaccination - name, date of birth and address are all that is required.
- Parental consent isn't required for 16-and-17-year-olds to be vaccinated (unless there is significant evidence to suggest individuals are unable to give informed consent). However, we recommend that students discuss having the vaccine with their parents/carers before attending the pop-up session.
- There is no requirement to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to be vaccinated.
- Students should **not** attend the vaccination if they are:
 - Self-isolating,
 - Waiting for a COVID-19 test result*
 - Within four weeks of having a positive COVID-19 test result.
- This link contains [Information for children and young people on what to expect after COVID-19 vaccination - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/information-for-children-and-young-people-on-what-to-expect-after-covid-19-vaccination).
- After vaccination it's still important to:
 - Test regularly (please see page 3),
 - Wash hands frequently,
 - Follow the [current guidance](#).
- In addition to the above, we also recommend that face coverings are worn both when moving around College and in classrooms, where an individual may come into contact with people they do not normally meet. However, no student will be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.
- In addition to the College's pop-up session, information on the nearest vaccination centre can be found through the NHS's online [walk-in finder](#).
- If help is needed getting to a vaccination session for financial or mobility reasons, free transport can be booked through Kirklees COVID: [COVID-19 vaccination programme | Kirklees Council](#).
- Further information about the vaccine can be found at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccines - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccines).
- Other local colleges are also hosting pop-up vaccination sessions for their students.

*Students who are undertaking testing in College do not need to await the result of their COVID test and can still attend the pop-up session.

Testing

Can I remind students and parents/carers that COVID-19 testing is continuing to take place in the College's Sports Hall for all students who have already consented and for those who would like to consent to take part.

The testing is carried out in a controlled environment, rather than at home, for the first two tests. Students will then be issued with testing kits in order to do twice-weekly testing at home. (The DfE will review arrangements for home testing at the end of September.)

We understand that students may have been doing their regular testing at home but the tests we are now implementing in College are slightly different and will only take a couple of minutes to carry out. These are nasal tests only. First-year students were offered their first test during enrolment but can still book two tests if they wish to participate.

Although the vaccination programme is now being offered to young people aged 16-and-17-years-old, even those of us who are fully vaccinated can still catch and transmit the virus. Getting tested regularly will help slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep case numbers down.

If students have not already consented, they can do so [here](#).

Students can book their test [here](#).

Both tests will need to be taken three-to-four days apart.

Booking slots are available from Monday, 6 September to Thursday, 16 September 8.45am to 3.30pm (but not weekends).

Best wishes to you all,

Simon Lett

(Principal)