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NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY
SAMWORTH ACADEMY

W/C 18th March

This Week at NUSA

We've made it to Easter!

I hope that each and every one of you has a fantastic bank holiday weekend and Easter holidays, enjoy it!

For Year 11 students we are running intervention sessions in preparation for their exams over the Easter break – students have had details of their individual timetables for revision sessions given to them this week; please encourage them to attend.

Thank you for your support around the updates on students visiting the toilet during lessons – the gain in learning time for students has been monumental.

Next term's focus for development is around uniform; this is the plan:

- There will be no more "uniform cards" (i.e. uniform passes)
- Students will be made to change into correct uniform from W/C 22nd April (Y7/8) and 29th April (Y9&10) if they arrive in incorrect uniform – there will be more details to follow on this

This week we say our goodbyes to Mr Henry and Mrs Temple who are leaving us; we wish them well in their new roles. For Year 7, Miss Croshaw will be the new Head of Year after Easter.

Attendance:

If your child is absent from school can we please ask that you contact the attendance team on **each** day of the absence by 9am. You can contact us on 0115 9291492 option 1 (please leave a message on the answerphone if we do not answer). You can also email us on attendance@nusa.org.uk. If we do not receive a call you will receive an absence text reminding you to contact us.

We will only authorise a maximum of three days absence for any illness unless evidence can be provided, this can be GP appointment, card/text, medication box, copy of prescription etc. We will not authorise absences for pupils with attendance below 90%.

SEND Drop ins

We offer a number of 'SEND drop ins' throughout the year for parents/cares. These are open to any parent/carer who may want to discuss their child's SEND needs further or parents/carer's who have concerns that their children may have SEND needs that are yet to be diagnosed. If you wish to book an appointment in one of the slots below, please contact reception.

Wednesday SEND Drop in dates:
01/05/2024
22/05/2024

Safeguarding Update:

A reminder that there is a safeguarding team drop in session for any parent/carer that would like to access support, or access questions – please contact RSipson@nusa.org.uk to book in.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mr. Turton

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Dear Headteacher, parents or guardians,

This letter contains important health information

I am writing to inform you that the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA East Midlands Health Protection team) has identified an increase in confirmed or suspected cases of whooping cough (pertussis) in school age children in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire areas. Individual cases have been provided with advice, but we would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness regarding vaccination and symptoms of whooping cough to be aware of.

Symptoms

Whooping cough is caused by infection with pertussis bacteria. For most school-age patients, symptoms will resolve over a number of weeks, while for some, coughing can persist for a few months.

The symptoms of pertussis include:

- a cough lasting several weeks following initial cold-like symptoms
- prolonged bouts of coughing ('paroxysms')
- post-coughing retching or vomiting
- a 'whoop' sound on breathing in
- rib pain

Find more information about pertussis on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/>

Untreated pertussis is no longer infectious after 21 days but with appropriate antibiotic treatment this reduces to 48 hours.

Advice for parents or guardians

If your child has any of the symptoms described above, we advise you seek medical advice from a GP and take along this letter.

Your GP may then arrange testing for whooping cough.

Your GP can also prescribe antibiotics without waiting for test results. Antibiotics are not required if there has been more than 21 days of coughing. Whooping cough is no longer infectious from 48 hours of starting appropriate antibiotics, but your child should stay isolated at home until they have had 48 hours of antibiotic treatment.

Whooping cough is spread through respiratory droplets: coughing into tissues and washing hands with soap and water can reduce spread.

If your child missed any of their infant or pre-school vaccines, we recommend that you arrange catch-up vaccination through your GP practice as soon as possible. If your child is up to date with their pertussis vaccination, we do not advise any further boosters.

It is still possible for fully vaccinated children to develop whooping cough (although the illness is generally milder) so if your child develops symptoms they should be taken to the GP for advice.

At-risk groups

Whooping cough is of most concern in unimmunised infants when it can be life threatening. Vaccinations to prevent whooping cough are routinely given to infants, pre-school children, and pregnant women.

We recommend all pregnant women get their routine vaccination against pertussis ideally between weeks 20 and 32 of pregnancy (but can be given from 16 weeks and up until labour if needed) in order to protect their baby.

Those in risk groups or with regular contact with persons in a risk group should consider avoiding events where they may come into contact with those unwell with pertussis.

Yours sincerely

Dr Vanessa MacGregor
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC)
UKHSA East Midlands Health Protection team