

# Parent Bulletin

Week commencing Monday 14 June 2021 – Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you at what feels to be a bit of a crossroads. It's a tense time. Almost all student work is now completed and marked for the **Teacher Assessed Grades**, and our subject leaders are working very hard with Mr Dicocco and Mrs Nellist to make sure the work is correctly marked, standardised and checked. By this time next week, I shall have helped to carry out further checks on the grades, before signing off on all of them and making sure they are submitted accurately to the examination boards. In the coming weeks, we will be explaining more about the process of checking the grades, so parents and carers of students in years 11 and 13 can be confident in the grades that will be produced. We will also give details of our appeals process.

This enormous piece of work, then, is coming to a close. And ahead of us lies an uncertain prospect. Will COVID case numbers continue to rise? Will vaccines prove effective against new variants? Will further unlocking proceed or be put on hold? And the BIG question for so many: will we be able to have a holiday this year?

The latest infection figures across Gateshead (see the diagram below) show that numbers of infections are doubling approximately every two weeks. Across the country as a whole, new cases are now at levels last seen in February. This is clearly very concerning for us all. Hospitalisation and death numbers have shown small increases, but these appear to be contained at present. It is to be hoped that those who have been vaccinated will have some protection, even against the new delta variant of the disease.

I am very aware, though, that there are large numbers of people who have not been vaccinated, including almost all of our students and many of our parents/carers and staff. These make up the majority of our school community. We all rely on each other to continue to take sensible measures to make sure that the virus does not spread.

## **Importance of Testing – even for those with no symptoms**

It is essential that all our students test themselves regularly, twice a week, using the lateral flow test kits that we provide. Staff are doing these tests too. These tests, although not perfect, are designed to be used with people who are showing no symptoms. They therefore offer a valuable way to detect and protect our students, their families and friends. So far, the uptake of tests has not been high enough, and we strongly encourage all students to take test kits home and to test themselves. We suggest the tests should be done on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening.

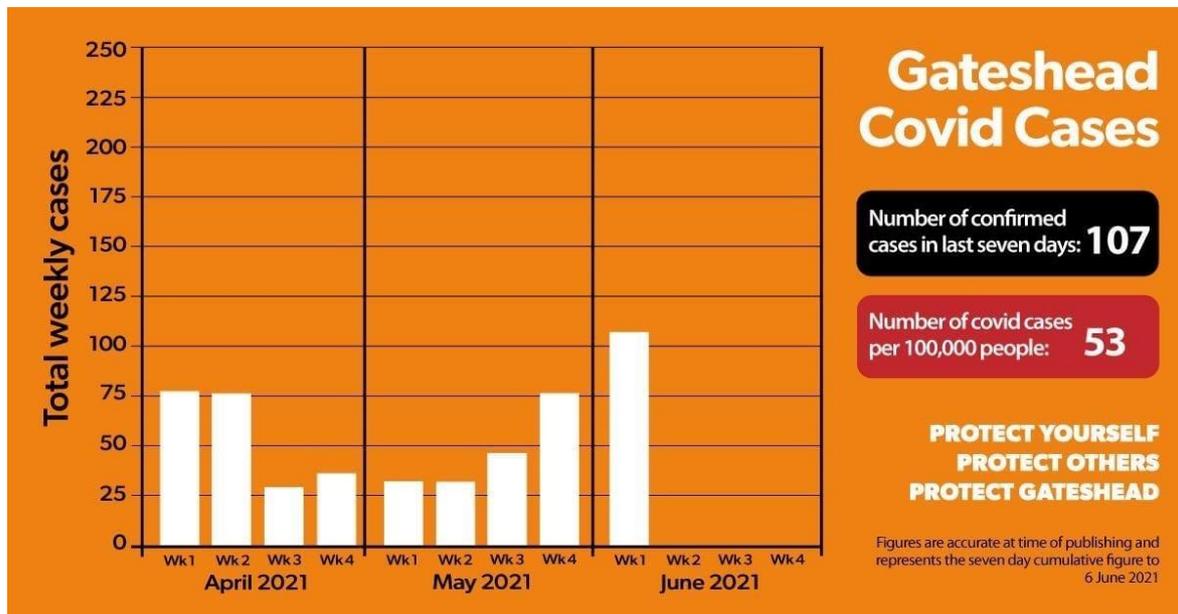
## **Contingency plans**

At Lord Lawson, we are looking again at some of our plans for activities later this term. We should know more on Monday about the national government's decision to proceed (or not) with further opening up of restrictions. In case we need to make changes, though, we are forming online contingency plans for some of our upcoming events, including parents' evenings, and we will be in touch next week to say more.

Best wishes – and stay safe

**Mr A T Fowler**  
**Principal**

## Latest COVID-19 figures from Gateshead Public Health



### New Business Manager

It is my great pleasure to welcome Mr James Pedlingham as our new Academy Business Manager. Mr Pedlingham started work at the academy on 1 June, so he has already been with us for two weeks.

One of Mr Pedlingham's first jobs has been to put the finishing touches to our three-year budget plan, which will be presented to Governors for approval next week. The academy is a business with a substantial budget of almost £10M. We do not aim to make a surplus (a 'profit') but to spend the money we receive for the benefit of our students. Finances are now in a sustainable position, the result of much hard work over the past two years. The budget is an important financial plan that sets the agenda for spending in the academy, decisions that directly affect the teaching and learning that your children experience.

Mr Pedlingham has worked in a variety of educational settings, including multi-academy trusts and colleges. He brings expertise in financial and strategic planning of staffing and resources, and he is eagerly tackling the challenge of helping us to manage and improve the school, its facilities and its staff, for the benefit of all our students. I hope you will get the opportunity to meet Mr Pedlingham in due course, and that you will give him your wholehearted support.

*Mr A Fowler*

### **Catch-up Immunisations: Friday 18 June**

The following catch-up immunisations will be taking place in the main hall starting at 9.15am:

- Year 8 HPV - Dose 1 (67 students)
- Year 9 DTP and MEN C immunisation Plus HPV immunisation (2nd dose) (14 students)
- Year 10 DTP and MEN C immunisation Catch-up (7 students)

No other immunisations will take place on this day.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Immunisation Team direct on: (0191) 4028179.

Thank you

***Mrs K Maynard***  
***Supported Learning Co-ordinator/Health Unit Manager***

### **Six-week employment course for 16 - 24 year olds**

Gateshead Learning Skills are once again running their six-week employment course and are recruiting now, to start Monday 28 June 2021.

Young people progressing to college or employment can learn about COVID-19 Health and Safety in the workplace, complete a professional CV, and access a mock '1-1' interview.

For further information please contact: [alexhelm@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:alexhelm@gateshead.gov.uk) or using 0191 433 8646.

Regards

***Mrs A Jordan***  
***Careers Lead***

## First Aid Unit Awareness Topic: Nutrition

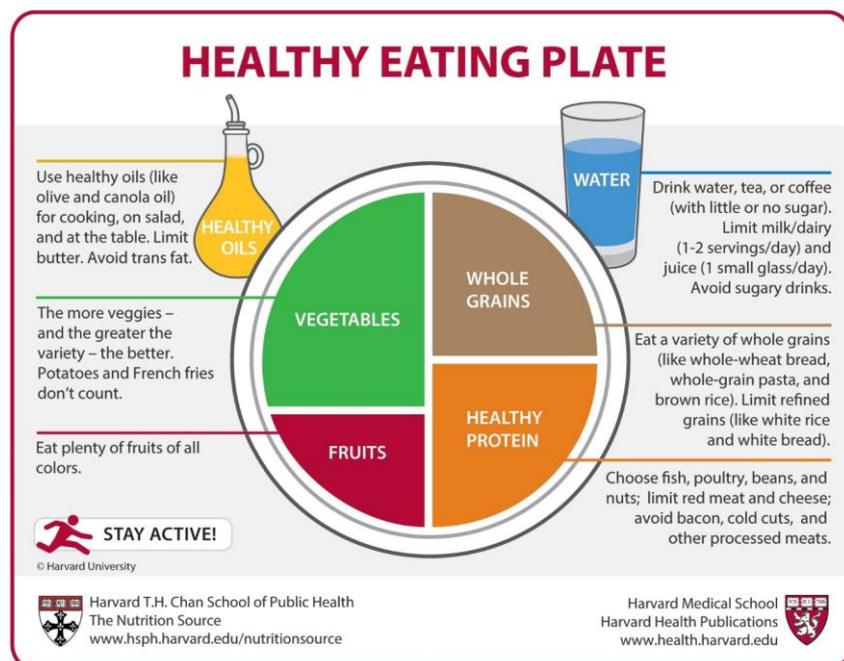
Healthy nutrition can benefit students in numerous ways. They are more likely to have fewer absences, attend classes regularly and be prepared to learn.

Good and healthy nutrition helps students to be more active and alert whilst staying focused and energy levels remain constant. They maintain a healthy body weight and it can improve their wellbeing.

Please encourage your child to make healthy choices in their food and drinks. This includes having breakfast before school, as many students miss this important meal and start to feel unwell at the start of the day with nausea and headaches. Discourage your child from eating sugary and salty foods as this can have a negative impact on their health and behaviour. Drinking water is the best way to keep hydrated during the school day.

### Top brain foods for teenage students:

- **Wholegrains**
- **Berries**
- **Red, green and orange vegetables**
- **Fish**
- **Eggs**
- **Nuts (be aware of any allergies)**



**Mrs K Maynard**

**Supported Learning Co-ordinator/Health Unit Manager**

### **Carnegie award meeting**

On Monday 14 June we will have our second Carnegie shadowing meeting. All students are welcome to attend, and we will be discussing the book 'Look Both Ways' and completing activities, before moving on to our next text.

Students who have already attended are welcome, as are new students. The Carnegie award is a children's book award, and we are working together to read the shortlist of fantastic books.

I hope to see lots of students there.

*Miss C Emmerson*  
*Teacher of English*

### **School Leaver Apprenticeship Opportunities with SETA**

For school leavers interested in apprenticeships, SETA Engineering in Washington currently have vacancies for paid apprenticeships in Business Administration, Engineering and Production, starting September 2021.

For further information, please access Seta's **Online Apprenticeships Open Evening:**

**Thursday 17 June: 3.30pm – 4.30pm**

Come and 'virtually' meet employers; view Seta's training facilities and learn how you can 'earn while you learn' through Seta's apprenticeship opportunities.

Booking is essential and can be completed by using the following link: <https://www.seta.co.uk/>

**Good luck**

*Mrs A Jordan*  
*Careers Lead*

## **Life Skills: Student Money Hacks**

Students aged 14 and above are invited to a virtual event with MDX Life Skills: Student Money Hacks - **Wednesday 16 June 2021: 4:30 – 5:30pm.**

This live event with professional money advisors is to help students learn tips and tricks on how to manage their money and to learn to save and use money effectively.



**Middlesex University London**

# MDX LIFE SKILLS

MDX Life Skills is a programme of virtual sessions for students aged 14-18

**Wednesday June 16th, 4:30-5:30pm**

**Student Money Hacks:** Tips and tricks to save money and live independently.

Session highlights:

- Student money hacks: Tips and Tricks
- The Student Side Hustle: Getting a student job alongside your studies
- The MDX Money Hacks Checklist: Tick off everything to be prepared!

**BOOK NOW**

**MORE THAN AN EDUCATION**

For more detailed information and to book a place please access the following website:  
<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/study-with-us/information-for-schools/events/mdx-life-skills>

***Mrs Jordan***  
***Careers Lead***

### **Free online maths summer club for your child**

Eedi has offered all year 5 to year 9 families free access to **Eedi Summer Club**, a maths summer program **100% free of charge**, that will help to boost your child's confidence in maths so it's sky high for the new school year.

Your child will first do a quick placement quiz to set their work and then receive recommended topics that will help them improve the most over 7 weeks. Your child will get unlimited access to review questions, videos and live chat support with real teachers over the holidays. Parents will receive weekly reports on how they're doing.

The minimum recommended work is 1 lesson a week, which should be around 30 minutes of work.

Each week, Eedi will hold competitions to boost motivation and engagement - from who's given the most thoughtful explanation to a problem, to which team has the highest number of points 🏆... Plus there are real prizes up for grabs!

**Signup deadline:** Monday 14 June

**Summer Club Starts:** Monday 5 July

**Summer Club Ends:** Monday 23 August

**Sign up on this link to have the offer automatically applied to your account.**

If you have any questions, please contact [family@eedi.co.uk](mailto:family@eedi.co.uk) directly.

Enjoy everyone.

*Mrs D Jackson*

*Subject Leader - Maths*