



16 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will have seen in the press on Tuesday, the government has announced their plan to extend the vaccination programme for all children aged between 12 and 15. The government's aim is to offer a first dose of the Pfizer vaccine to all 12-15 year olds before October half term.

Any student under the age of 12 does not currently qualify for inclusion in the vaccination programme. Any students aged 16 and over are included within the adult vaccination category and are expected to engage with the vaccination programme through local health teams as has been the case with us as staff and yourselves as parents/carers.

The vaccinations will be optional, however, in order for a child to receive a vaccination parental consent must be given. The vaccination programme is a national initiative; the health professionals will undertake all of the logistics and as a school we are simply the vaccination site for students who attend Heanor Gate Spencer Academy. We will of course ensure we look after students on the day in the same way as any other day/any other vaccination programme around fears about needles etc.

Derbyshire and Derby City Immunisation Team will shortly be getting in touch with us as a school to notify us of their plans and the date on which they will come on site to conduct the vaccinations. All students who choose to have the vaccine will be vaccinated on the same day.

As the notice period for consent and administering vaccines is likely to be extremely short, we wanted to get in touch and give you advanced warning so that as families you can have educated discussions around the decision to vaccinate or not vaccinate your child. We fully appreciate that this is a decision which will split the community and there are various opinions amongst the community about the vaccine and COVID-19 itself. Ultimately, families will need to make the best decision for themselves and have respect for alternative decisions which may differ. We will fully support the decision of all of our families and young people and will ensure no prejudice is shown regardless of what decision individuals make.

For more information about the vaccination please follow the link below:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1017171/PHE\\_1\\_2073\\_COVID-19\\_guide\\_for\\_all\\_CYP.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017171/PHE_1_2073_COVID-19_guide_for_all_CYP.pdf)

The school and any individual staff member cannot and will not offer any advice around the decision to have/not have the vaccine so please refrain from asking.

As soon as we have further details to share with you, we will be in touch. The request for e-consent will follow the usual protocols and we will send details of the login process in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Mr S Huntington**  
Executive Principal

**Mr M Jones**  
Senior Vice Principal