

Issue No 19

Friday 4 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The school prides itself on the broad spread of [extra-curricular activities offered](#) at lunchtime and we have a full hour to enable students to participate in these activities (and have their lunch). With the Lower Field still closed due to improvements being made, there is limited space for students to run around this year. Please talk to your child about joining the clubs that are available and encourage them to get involved (or ask staff to consider something they would like to have offered).

Many students bring in cards and board games to occupy the lunch hour and we would encourage this.



Don't forget the Quiz on Friday 11 February to raise money for FOKES (our PTA), whilst having good family fun!

<https://forms.office.com/r/zXPJUgzNKc>

Equipment

Your child needs to be well equipped for lessons and there are some basics that all students need to have: a pencil case ([with the right equipment](#)) and a planner.

Students need a planner to keep their timetable safe, access the subject knowledge organisers, expectations about uniform and behaviour and use the Lesson Pass to visit the toilet if necessary, during a lesson.

Both are available to order from Student Services and can be purchased by Parent Pay, if you are not able to arrange outside of school. The link is [here](#). Students who are entitled to Free School Meals will be able to get support with this, please email your Head of College or Pastoral Support Manager.

King Edward VI School Foundation

You may be interested to learn that the King Edward Foundation welcomes applications for help with funding for various activities. Special scholarships exist to help able and talented children to develop their potential to the full. In particular funds are available to enable beneficiaries to be given special assistance in music, sport, the arts, or for travel abroad to pursue their education. [Please see our website for more details](#) and to find the application form.

Covid Update

- As you are aware, student Covid vaccinations (second dose or first dose if the first was missed) will take place in school on Wednesday 16 February 2022. The link to the online consent form is within the letter already emailed to you. Vaccinations will not take place without consent. If you wish to consent, the deadline is Thursday 10 February 2022.

There are other venues available locally for vaccinations for 12-15 year olds, if you would prefer this, including a special drop in session at Southgate Community Centre next Tuesday after school. Please see the flyer below for further details of this.

- Please remember to continue to test your child/ren twice weekly (Wednesdays and Sundays suggested) and to [report the results to us here](#), even if the result is negative.

LFD test kits were issued to students in Years 7 and 8 this week in assemblies. Tests will be distributed to remaining Year groups next week.

Please remember the tests issued by the school are for use by our students only. We are only allocated a limited number of kits. Alternative sources of kits are available if you need more for other members of your family.

You can order kits from the [Govt website here](#)

If your child reports feeling unwell and they tell us that they haven't had a test please expect to receive a call from us.

Message from Chambers Bus Company:

“Please continue to wear face coverings when travelling on our buses. We appreciate that the new governmental guidelines do not make this a mandatory procedure, but our experience has demonstrated that many passengers remain apprehensive about using public transport. To instil confidence in our passengers, it is in our interest to ensure that our buses remain as accessible and safe for the public as possible. Thank you.”

Reminder: February Half Term Dates are Monday 21 – Friday 25 February 2022

February Half Term Free School Meal Vouchers

Suffolk County Council is pleased to confirm that a discretionary grant is available to support low-income families over the February half term holiday.

We will be issuing a £15 Edenred supermarket voucher for each eligible child. The grant is to help families with their essential living costs during the half term.

Vouchers will be available from Monday 14 February 2022.

Would you like to be an Exam Invigilator?

Don't miss out on the opportunity to join our exams invigilation team as we currently have vacancies.

Please contact Caroline Blyth, the Examinations Officer (clb@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk or call the main school number 01284 761393 ext. 206) if you would like to find out more or to request an application form.

Safeguarding

Our Assembly focus in the coming weeks will be 'Exploring respect and relationships online' which is in line with national Safer Internet Day.

A new report has been released entitled '[Children's Wellbeing in a Digital World](#)'. The report is in relation to digital technology and wellbeing and shows 'striking differences between children of different ages, genders and demographic backgrounds'. There are some interesting findings, eg:

- While displaying some positive impacts, greater social media use, especially among girls, was associated with increased negative impacts on wellbeing.
- Vulnerable children experience more of the negative impacts of digital technology on wellbeing than their less vulnerable peers.

And finally ... “let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger” James 1:19

Too often we are slow to hear, quick to speak and quick to become angry. It is good for all our wellbeing to be a good listener, especially for our children.



Beverley Tucker
Co-Headteacher



Tom Grey
Co-Headteacher

Reluctant Reader Tip 9: If you have younger children, ask your older (reluctant reader) child to read aloud to them. This is a big confidence booster and it helps with sibling bonding. Michael Morpurgo is a particularly good shared read, as his books have something for everyone; I highly recommend *Kensuke's Kingdom* for sibling read-alouds.

Thought for the Week

“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.”

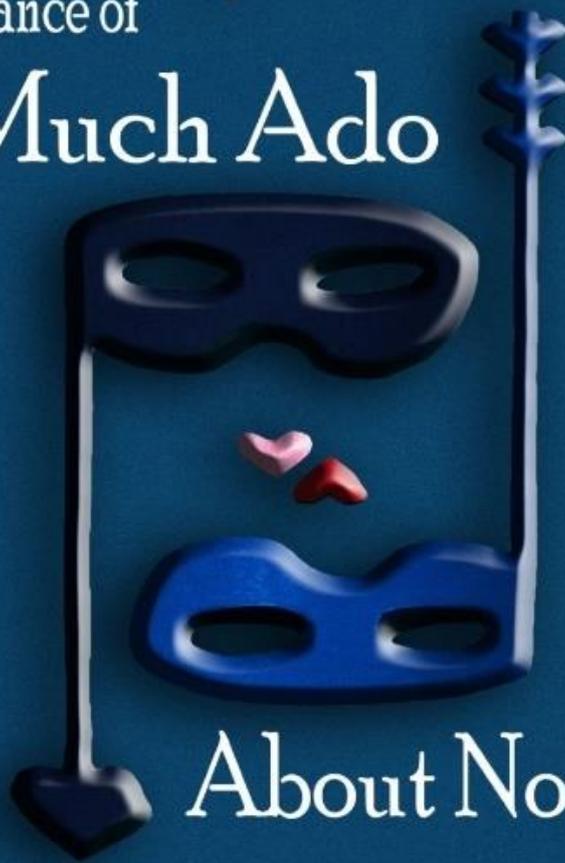
William Arthur Ward

All past issues of this Newsletter are available [on our website](#).

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Performance of

Much Ado



About Nothing

THE APEX

Tuesday 8 February 2022



Suffolk and North East Essex

Walk-In COVID Vaccination Clinic

no bookings, just turn up

Please do not contact the centre

If you have queries please go to
www.sneevaccine.org.uk

or call the NHS patient helpline 0344 257 3961

Alternatively the vaccinator will be happy to answer your questions on the day



Southgate Community Centre
Caie Walk
Bury St Edmunds
IP33 2PJ

Tuesday 8th February
9.00am – 8.00pm

Pfizer available
First & second dose 12 years plus
Booster dose 16 years plus

Please check vaccination eligibility against latest government guidelines
www.sneevaccine.org.uk/what-you-need-to-know/faqs/

Demand may be high so queues are expected. We are doing our best to reduce the waiting time and would like to thank you for your patience.

