



Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
01782 987150

Blackfriars Bulletin



Volume 7 Issue 9



Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout this Pandemic, I have endeavoured to always be as honest and transparent as possible with you to support you in making informed decisions about whether to send your child into school. I was delighted to hear a few weeks ago that all special school staff would receive the vaccine in order to keep our young people as safe as possible. Unfortunately, despite what you may have heard or read in the press, special school staff in Staffordshire are not all going to be vaccinated as they are in many other local authorities. Both individually and as a group of Staffordshire Special schools, we have been trying to reverse this decision but unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful. Not all of our staff will receive the vaccination before 15th February because we have had to strictly abide by the criteria that we have been given by the LA. We know that many of you will find this as frustrating as us. In our efforts to prepare for more students coming back into school safely, we have moved to twice weekly testing of staff and we saw the vaccination of ALL of our staff as a further step towards protecting each and every one of our children.

The LA has provided us with the following position paper to explain their approach. Please do read it and if, like our Academy Council, you wish to make representations about the rationale that has been applied that means that 40% of our staff will not be vaccinated as early as we had hoped, please do get in touch with your local Councillor or MP

You can read the Local Authority position letter here:



Richard Harling
Director of Health and Care
Staffordshire County Council
No 1 Staffordshire Place
Stafford
ST16 2LP

To: Parents & Carers

Postal Address:
Staffordshire Place 2, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

4 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 Vaccination of staff in Special Schools

This is an update on Covid-19 vaccinations for Special School employees in Staffordshire.

The NHS are currently inviting some frontline social care workers to receive their Covid-19 vaccine. Government policy is to offer Covid-19 vaccination in priority order to ensure that those at highest risk are protected as soon as possible. This is based on scientific advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire

First Response :
0800 1313 126
Outside office hours:
0845 6042886

Stoke-on-Trent

Advice and Referral Team:
01782 235100
Outside office hours:
01782 234234

Cheshire East

Referral Team :
0300 123 5012 Option 2
Outside office hours:
0300 123 5022

Shropshire

Referral Team:
01743 254 259
Initial Contact Team:
0345 678 9021
Outside office hours:
0345 678 9040

Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response –
0845 604 2719
Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care –
0800 561 0015

blackfriarsacademy.org.uk

Under government policy only those frontline social care workers who provide 'hands on' care for people who are clinically vulnerable to Covid-19 are eligible for vaccination at this stage. This means that whilst some employees of Special Schools may be eligible for vaccination before 15 February, the vaccine will not be offered to all Special School employees at this stage.

Staffordshire County Council is following government policy. We are identifying employees of Special Schools who provide care for children or young people who are clinically extremely vulnerable or have disabilities or health conditions that make them exceptionally vulnerable to Covid-19 for vaccination and the NHS will be inviting them for vaccination before 15 February.

All Special School employees will be vaccinated as the NHS moves down the priority order. I understand that some parents may have concerns if Special School employees are not vaccinated immediately however the risk from Covid-19 to healthy adults and children is low.

I am aware that some local authorities have chosen to deviate from Government policy, however the advice from the NHS in Staffordshire is that this would delay vaccination of those at higher risk, prolonging the pressure on hospitals, with 'lockdown' restrictions required for longer. This is something that we cannot justify.

Thank you for your understanding and all your hard work supporting your child's learning during these extremely challenging times.

Yours faithfully



Dr Richard Harling MBE
Director of Health and Care



We have had a busy few weeks in school and at home. In Science we are doing forces and we sent out Gliders for the Students to build at home and actively investigate how gliders fly and the forces working on them .



The Exploratory Pathway students have all been working hard on writing (with support) their own Dragon stories



Once upon a time there was a dragon called Peppermint. He was a magical dragon.

Once upon a time a dragon lived in a school, he was a magical dragon and if he could he would put the virus away in a cupboard for a 1000 years. He was so magical he could make everyone well by flapping get well glitter with his wings over everyone.



Well done Harry. Your dragon has a white chest and lovely long wings and you can make them move



Scholars of the week:

Middleport's **Sarah** for engaging in every lesson set on Showbie and showing constant determination and independence whilst working from home.

Bridgewater's **Jack** and **Paige** for being such dedicated home workers and Royal Doulton's **Telsa** for being a role model in all school music lessons, standing in front of the class to sing and sign our song. He helped the students and staff to learn the song and has shown that he is a fantastic musical assistant.