



Birchwood High School

your dreams, your future, our challenge

06 October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

I wanted to contact you again today to apologise for the slowness of the vaccination process yesterday. I know this caused a lot of disruption as well as being unable to vaccinate Year 7 and 8 due to lack of time.

It was clear from the off that the NHS were under-staffed, not helped by the vaccine arriving late. The infrastructure we had set up at school would have ensured that we could have dealt with one year group per hour but the actual run-rate was one year group per two hours. The situation was exactly the same at Leventhorpe School in Sawbridgeworth who also had yesterday as their nominated mass vaccination day. One wonders whether the NHS simply stretched themselves too thinly and would have been better to focus on one school and do this efficiently.

On a more positive note, the uptake of the vaccine was 74% in Year 9, 10 and 11 and this compares with a 93% uptake in the Sixth Form. As a school, the data on who has and who has not been vaccinated remains confidential so there is no overt pressure on families who have chosen to not take up the offer. The students themselves were also a real credit to their families, putting up with lengthy queues in a patient and sensible manner, as well as supporting each other in the Sports Hall.

With Year 7 and 8 students, the NHS will reschedule and we will advise you of the new date as soon as possible. We will aim to process these students during a normal school day as we expect to have around 300 individuals to vaccinate – far less than those who were vaccinated yesterday - so you do not have to take further time from work.

Once again, apologies and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Chris Ingate

Dr Chris Ingate
Principal

Principal - Dr Chris Ingate

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