

BECKET KEYS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Dear Parents & Carers

I am writing to you today to provide you with some information about the vaccination programmes that are now available for students, this includes all young people who are over the age of 12.

Scientists and the government agree that vaccines remain our best weapon against this virus. Although phase 2 of the school vaccination programme was launched on 10th January, at this time we do not have a date for when Becket Keys will be able to provide vaccines on site and it may not be until April. We would therefore suggest that in order to reduce the chance of infection, to keep your child at school and the school open, all families book an out-of-school vaccination for their son/daughter, this can be done through the <u>NHS booking system</u>.

There are also a number of walk-in clinics available, the next local clinic is Saturday 22nd January 2022, 10.30am – 3.00pm at the Hermit Youth Centre, 15 Shenfield Road, Brentwood CM15 8AG. You can view more information about all the clinics available here: <u>https://www.essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine/walk-in-vaccination-clinics/</u>

The benefits of the vaccine:

- It is estimated that a 60% vaccine uptake among healthy 12 to 15-year-olds will reduce confirmed cases of COVID-19 in this group in the period up to 31 March 2022 by 33%. This equates to a reduction of 110,000 school days absent in this age group due to confirmed COVID-19 cases.
- Research shows that those who do become infected 3 weeks after receiving one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca vaccine are between 38% and 49% less likely to pass the virus on to their household contacts than those who are unvaccinated.

If your son/daughter is between 12-18 years old and they are eligible for a second vaccine, you can book an appointment for this second dose using this service, appointments will be offered from 12 weeks after the first dose.

For more information. Please see the guidance on <u>COVID-19 vaccination: resources for schools</u> and parents for further information and resources on the vaccination programme.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A P Scott-Evans Headteacher

