

19 December 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Immunisations at Secondary School**

The national childhood immunisations programme has meant that many dangerous diseases such as Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio (Td/IPV) have practically disappeared in the UK. Unfortunately this is not the same for all countries and cases of these diseases continue to be seen worldwide, including Europe. Similarly immunisations for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Meningitis have drastically reduced the number of people contracting these serious infections. Therefore, it is important that we continue to immunise our children and teenagers in order to maintain the high level of protection found in the UK.

#### **Diphtheria Tetanus and Polio (Td/IPV)**

Young people need a total of five doses of Td/IPV vaccine to build up and keep their immunity. These are given as follows:

- The first three doses as a baby (DTaP/IPV/Hib)
- The fourth dose when they were between three and five years old. Preschool booster (DTaP/IPV)
- The fifth dose is due now

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/535765/PHE\\_Immunisation\\_For\\_Young\\_People\\_A5.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/535765/PHE_Immunisation_For_Young_People_A5.pdf)

#### **Meningococcal ACWY**

Due to an increase in the number of cases of Meningitis W in adolescents and university aged students, protection against Meningitis W has been incorporated into the Meningococcal vaccine. The ACWY booster for protection against Meningococcal bacteria is now recommended for teenagers in addition to those doses previously received as a baby. This has been added to the Teenage Immunisation Schedule, to extend protection against Meningococcal strains ACWY into early adulthood. This can be given at the same time as the Td/IPV.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543950/PHE\\_990\\_9\\_MenW\\_leaflet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543950/PHE_990_9_MenW_leaflet.pdf)

#### **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)**

This is a good time to check that two doses of MMR have been received. If your child has only received one dose, then the School Nurses can give the second dose now. If your child has never received the MMR vaccine and you would now like them to, this can also be administered by the School Nurse.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/204793/DoH\\_841\\_2\\_Measles\\_A5\\_07\\_School\\_accessible.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/204793/DoH_841_2_Measles_A5_07_School_accessible.pdf)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/543379/9867\\_MMR\\_A5leaflet.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543379/9867_MMR_A5leaflet.pdf)

Below is also a link for the NHS Choices web page you can access for more information.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/3-in-1-teenage-booster.aspx>

**These immunisations will be offered on Monday 6 February 2017.**

**Consent Form**

It is important for you to discuss and complete the consent form with your child. Every pupil should return the consent form to their school as soon as possible, whether or not they need the immunisations. Please be aware that if we do not receive the signed consent form, each young person will be assessed on an individual basis and invited to self-consent for the above vaccinations providing they can demonstrate an understanding of the vaccinations due. Ultimately, the decision to consent or refuse is the young person's, providing they understand the issues involved in giving consent. This is in line with the Gillick Competency Framework.

If you have any concerns please contact the School Nursing Team on the contact number below

**Please return the completed consent form to Student Services by no later than Monday 16 January 2017.**

Your faithfully,

**School Nursing Team**  
0300 1111 022