

1 October 2024

Dear Parent and Student

Congratulations go to:

- Mya Kidd 8C who represented Lincolnshire County Athletics in 200 metres and completed a trial for Lincolnshire County Performance Academy Netball, successfully gaining a place.
- Tazmin Kidd 11C who achieved her Grade 3 Piano.

The annual **Flu Vaccination** for students in years 7 to 11 was administered yesterday. If your child missed their vaccination and you have consented, there will be a Catch-Up session on **Wednesday 30 October**. If you have not given consent, but would like to do so, click on the link in the attached letter.

Purchasing A Smart phone for your child: Is it the right time to get my child a Smart phone? The Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership, say this is something they are asked a lot by Parents. A new film by the charity [Nip in the Bud](#) discusses the hidden dangers of social media and smartphone use among children. If you are considering getting your child a phone, they would urge you to watch [A Stolen Child](#), a film which provides insights from children, headteachers and doctors, shedding light on the everyday harm caused by digital platforms.

Key facts:

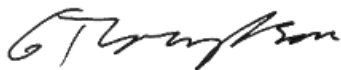
- 90% of 11-year-olds own a smartphone, and most under 13 have a social media profile.
- 90% of girls and 50% of boys have received explicit pictures or videos they didn't want to see.
- 80% of teenage girls are pressured to provide sexual images of themselves.
- 1 in 5 children have been bullied online. Among them, 24% self-harm and 22% change their appearance due to bullying. Only 13% delete the app where they are bullied.
- Boys as young as 13 have been targeted for sextortion scams.
- MRI scans show screen time reduces brain areas responsible for visual processing, empathy, attention, memory and early reading skills.
- Psychologists, headteachers and GPs are advocating for stricter guidelines: no smartphones until age 14, no social media until age 16

You can read more information here which provides more options to consider around technology prior to purchasing smartphones for children. [Smartphones and social media fact sheet | Nip in the Bud | Free Downloadable Fact Sheet](#)

Dates for your diary:

- Y7 Meet the Tutors' Evening is this evening 4.30 pm.
- Non-Uniform Day is on Thursday 10 October, £1 per person in aid of the Wellbeing Team supporting World Mental Health Day.
- Soloist Concert Thursday 17 October at 7.00 pm, details will be provided nearer the time.

Cor unum, via una



Mr G Thompson
Headteacher



Well done Mya and
Tazmin on your
achievements!