

Dear Parent/Guardian

The HPV vaccine is now being offered to ALL students in school Year 8. A link to complete the consent form online is provided in the email. We ask you to discuss the vaccination with your child and to complete the online consent form by **Monday 1st July**. If you are unable to complete the form online please contact our Admin hub (number below) who can complete a facilitated form with you.

The vaccine to protect against infection from human papillomavirus (HPV) that can lead to a range of cancers in later life is being offered free to your child in school when they start Year 8. (Please note this vaccine is not routinely available from your GP).

To get the best protection, your child will need two injections to be given 6 months apart. The first will be given in the autumn term 2019 and the second in summer 2020. For specific dates please refer to your school communications (e.g. website, noticeboards, and newsletters)

We would like parents to complete the consent form; however, if we do not receive a completed consent form before the vaccination session, we will look to offer your child the opportunity to self-consent on the day. This is in line with the Gillick Competency Framework, see NHS Choices website; consent to treatment children and young people at the following web address:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Consent-to-treatment/Pages/Children-under-16.aspx>

If you decide you do not want your child to have the vaccine, it is important you complete the *refusal of consent* on the consent form and submit the online consent form as soon as possible. Please be assured that if we receive a refusal of consent we will not vaccinate your child on the day. However, we do have a duty of care to advise your child where they may be able to access the vaccine if they choose to have it at a later date.

If you would like more details you can visit the NHS Choices vaccination page on the HPV vaccine at the following web address:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/hpv-human-papillomavirus-vaccine.aspx>

Or visit the Vaccine Knowledge Project at the following web address:

<http://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/hpv-vaccine>

If you have any queries and would like to speak with a School Nurse please contact the 0-19 Universal Children's Services Team on 0300 111 1022 Option 4.