HPV Virus
What you need to know
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common Virus with over 100 types. Some types of the Virus can lead to cancer. The HPV Vaccination Programme uses a Vaccine that protects against 4 types of HPV (6, 11, 16 & 18). HPV types 6 & 11 cause around 90% of genital warts.
What Is The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Virus?

- Human papillomavirus is common; Most people will get some type of HPV in their life.
- Most of the time HPV does not cause any problems. You can have HPV for many years without it causing problems and over 90% of infections are cleared by the body’s immune system.
- In some people some types of HPV can cause genital warts AND some types of HPV can cause abnormal changes in the cells that can sometimes turn into Cancer.
HPV Related Cancers in Women

In Women the HPV Virus (types 16 & 18) are known to be responsible for most cases of Cervical Cancer. They don’t have any symptoms, so women will not realise they have it.

There are around 3,200 new cervical cancer cases in the UK every year, that’s around 9 every day. Incidence rates are highest in females aged 25 to 29 (Cancerresearchuk.org 2016)
HPV related Cancers in Men and Women

- Cancers linked to the HPV Virus include:
  - Cervical Cancer
  - Anal Cancer
  - Cancer of the Penis
  - Vulval Cancer
  - Some types of Head and Neck Cancer
Who is at Risk?

Anybody who is sexually active is at risk of contracting a HPV infection.

As there may be no symptoms, you can be infected with the virus for years without knowing it.

The risk of becoming infected does increase with the number of sexual partners, and is more likely if you’ve started having sexual relationships at a younger age. However, even people who have only had one sexual partner can be infected with HPV.

Certain factors are known to increase the risk of HPV infections developing into Cervical Cancer or HPV related cancers. These include smoking and having a weakened immune system.
What can we do to help prevent HPV related Cancers?

Immunisation / Vaccination

- Girls and boys have a course of 2 injections (at school) which will protect them from the types of HPV that cause HPV related cancers.

Screening / Checking

- From the age of 25 in England and Northern Ireland, 20 in Scotland and Wales women are regularly screened for cervical changes.

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Ages</th>
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<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>25-64 years</td>
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<td>Northern Ireland</td>
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<td>Wales</td>
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After clean water, vaccination is the most effective public health intervention in the world for saving lives and promoting good health.

Vaccines help protect you against many diseases.

Vaccines contain antibodies that fight against specific diseases.

Since 2008 the HPV Vaccine has been offered to girls aged 12 and 13. From 2019 it is now been offered to boys.
Immunisation in School

- A team of nurses / health professionals will be coming into school very soon to give Year 8 Students their injections.

- Students will need 2 injections in total.

- These injections will protect the students against certain types of HPV that cause cancers and genital warts.
Things to Remember

- Take your consent form home for your parent / carer to sign.
- Return consent form promptly to your form tutor
- Please wear loose fitting / short-sleeved school shirt, or T-shirt under your shirt, to enable easy access to the top of your arm.

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IMMUNISE
The Royal Society of Health
Things to Remember

- Don’t worry! Prevention is better than cure!

- Don’t believe rumours, talk to your Immunisation nurse or teacher.

- Immunisation Nurses are available to discuss any concerns / rumours on 01274 221203.