



8th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As we enter the final week of this half term, I do hope that you and your family are managing to keep yourselves safe. My intention is that this will be my final update before the half term break. However, if we do hear any further news from the Government on the wider opening of schools then I will inform you. Everyone at Stafford Manor High School continues to appreciate all you are doing to support your child at home with their learning. As mentioned in previous updates, this is not an easy task and we do understand that there can be many challenges at home. Always remember that whatever you can do will be helping your child be ready for when they are able to return to school.

During lessons this week, teachers will be completing a review of the key learning that has taken place this term. This will help consolidate children's knowledge and understanding, and provide an opportunity for those children to 'catch-up' if they have missed any key aspects of topics. Those children who have been engaging with the live sessions through Microsoft Teams continue to find them extremely useful in helping them to complete work at home. Teachers are always keen to have as many children join as possible and will make sure any newcomers feel welcomed and get all the support they need. Please also encourage your child to submit any work they complete at home so teachers can track their progress with their learning. This can be done easily with work completed online through Microsoft Teams. For paper based work, this can also be relatively straightforward if children take a photo of work completed and email a copy to their teacher. Guidance on how to use Teams can be found on our website along with a help sheet on uploading work.

As would normally be the case towards the end of a half term, this week we will be rewarding the pupils who have received the most achievement points. Achievement points are awarded for any positive actions, but this term have also been awarded by teachers for work completed during lockdown. Later this week we will be awarding certificates to the 'Lockdown Learning Champions' who have received the highest number of achievement points this term. These pupils will also be invited to a special Teams assembly on Friday where names will be entered into a prize draw for some Amazon vouchers. Your child can increase their chances of being included by submitting work completed at home. We also plan to contact the children who have consistently engaged with their lessons to congratulate them on all their hard work. Although these actions will recognise a number of children for their efforts, we are very proud of what all pupils have achieved through this challenging term.

Over half term we will not be setting any new work for children to complete so everyone can have a well deserved rest. Should your child wish to complete any work they have missed through the term then this may prove a good opportunity but it is not necessary. Please be aware that teachers will not be responding to pupil messages through the half term break. These will be picked up at the start of next half term.

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If your child does develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 during half term then please do inform school using the email c19@smhs.staffs.sch.uk. The inbox will be checked daily at 10.00am. This is essential if your child has been attending school as we may need to instruct others to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. Please also be aware that the main school office will be closed over half term. Therefore, we will not be able to respond to any messages left on the school phone until we return.

On Monday 22nd February school will reopen for the children of critical workers and those classed as vulnerable. On this date we will also restart the setting of work through Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams for all children learning at home. It will be crucially important at this point to help your child be up in time ready to start their school work for the day. Hopefully, we will also receive clarification from the Government about exactly when in the term your child can return to school for face to face to teaching. We are certainly looking forward to when we can welcome the safe return of pupils to school.

During the next half term we would normally be discussing GCSE option choices with our Year 9 pupils. This will happen as soon as children return to school and we will be postponing the Year 9 Choices Evening from 16th March until after Easter. We will run this event virtually and in a different format than previous years to keep everyone safe. However, please can I reassure you that this slight delay will not affect the children starting their option subjects at the start of Year 10. After half term when we will hopefully have clarity on your child's return to school, we will also confirm arrangements for parents evenings, as well as the arrangements for the remaining school photographs, and whether we will be able to run the postponed Dyffryn residential for Year 8 pupils. We do appreciate your patience and understanding whilst we await Government guidance that will allow us to make the right decisions regards each of these events.

We have been informed that our uniform supplier, Crested Schoolwear, have relocated their main shop to the main high street in Stafford. They can now be found on Gaolgate Street next to Yum Yum Sweet Shop and Ryman Stationary.

The challenges of lockdown affect us all in many different ways and please do not feel alone if you are finding things difficult. I know that you are doing all you can to help your children continue their work at home. We do understand that this is not easy and are very sincere when we say 'thank you' for all you are doing to support your child. Everyone deserves a rest over the half term holiday but please do remember to keep to the guidance and stay at home. We must continue to do all we can to protect ourselves and our families and loved ones. Enjoy the break but most of all keep yourselves safe. If you have any questions or would like some help through this week then please do not hesitate to contact us at the main school office. Stay positive and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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