



17 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of another long half term is always a good time to reflect on the progress we are making as a school and just how much we are improving things within our school community.

### **Positive feedback from parent voice**

The responses we have received from parents and students as part of our recent parent and student voice questionnaires have been excellent sources of feedback and praise for the work we are doing this year. We are reflecting on this and how we can continue to improve.

The overwhelming majority of parents have said that their children feel safe at school. Parents also felt that their children do well at Stafford Manor High School and that we have high expectations of their children. Parents also felt that we communicate well with them and that there is a good range of subjects on offer here for their children.

Parents have said they would like more information on how they can help their child improve at school and that they would like more help with access to reading resources, which is very pleasing. We are working on this next term and there is a link in our Newsletter to gain access to money off books and free books.

Most parents feel that their children can take part in clubs and I have attached the list of clubs and activities children can take part in at Stafford Manor High School again for your convenience and to perhaps help you to support your child in attending more activities outside of normal classroom lessons.

Developing students' wider personal development was an area parents said was less positive. I am working with school leaders to develop this.

I am also delighted that a significant number of parents have shown an interest in coming into school to support us in moving forward. Watch this space to find out about the activities and decisions we make next term.

### **Positive feedback from student voice**

Student voice has also been positive, with the majority of students stating that they enjoy school and that they receive good support for their learning whilst they are here. Students also felt that teachers give them work that challenges them and that they enjoy their learning in the vast majority of subjects.

The overwhelming majority of students have said that behaviour in lessons is good and that this has improved since last year. Students have said that behaviour could improve during social times and during lesson transitions. We are focussing on this as a school to further improve the care and support we give.

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The majority of students have stated that the school encourages them to be respectful of other people from other backgrounds. The majority of students have said they would like more support with their mental health. Mental health is also an areas we are focussing on and you will see from the newsletter and website that provision here is improving all the time and is a real focus for us as a school and many schools nationally.

### **Attendance Matters**

As we returned to school in January, the school launched an attendance matters campaign with prize draws for daily attendance impacting on 40 students per day. We have already invested over £600 in vouchers to reward students who attended in the first week back after Christmas. This was linked to recent research released by the children's' commissioner that shows if students attend well, when returning from a school holiday, they are more likely to attend well for the rest of the term.

The school ran VIP lounge, gave out £10 vouchers for two students each day, in each year group for the first week and then £5 vouchers the week after. Lunch passes, queue jumps, random acts of kindness and chocolate bars were also issued and the impact of this initiative, along with working with VIP education has led to a 2.4% increase in whole school attendance. We are also awarding student of the week, praise postcards and more responsive rewards for improved attendance through improved tracking led by Mr Manfredi.

Form tutors, Heads of House, and senior leaders, including myself are mentoring 3 students each across the school. This means we are having regular conversations with up to 175 students each week to improve attendance.

**Attendance matters will be running again in our first week back**, with vouchers, VIP lounge and other rewards each day of that week. Please ensure your child attends to enable them to access these excellent attendance incentives. Students have to be here to stand a chance of receiving vouchers and other rewards each day.

### **Strike Action**

You will I am sure be aware that there is more planned strike action on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. We are doing all we can to keep the school open for as many students as possible and I will keep you updated of our plans once we know more after half term.

As you can see from our newsletter attached, trips and visits are beginning to become a feature of our planned opportunities for students. I was delighted to have been able to support the recent trip to the Theatre for Year 11 to watch Macbeth and we will be running more trips during the remainder of the year including netball trips, residentials and other exciting opportunities which we will share with you in the coming weeks.

### **Key Dates this half term**

**Monday 6 March** – Year 9 Booster vaccinations – Meningitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio

**Tuesday 7 March** – Year 7 Parents Evening – 3.30 p.m. start

**Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April** - Easter Holiday

**Monday 17 April** - Student return to school

Thank you for your continued support for the school and I hope your children have a restful half term and are able to recharge and return to school on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February to take part in attendance matters and re-engage with their learning.

Best wishes, as always  
Rhys Adams  
Headteacher