



10th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a fantastic experience this week to welcome back the pupils to Stafford Manor High School. Gradually, step by step as each year group arrives, it feels like the energy is spreading back through the school. To see the children and hear their voices in the classrooms is heart-warming and it is great to get face to face learning happening once again. Everyone is looking forward to the remaining year groups joining us throughout the rest of this week.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for supporting your child to take part in rapid testing on their return. The vast majority of pupils are being tested and this significantly helps us to strengthen our system of controls and potentially suppress the spread of the virus. The testing process has taken place very smoothly and reflects the hard work involved in preparing the testing site. Every single child has been a real credit as they have followed every instruction to keep themselves and others safe.

Once your child has taken their test, you should receive the result by email and/or text. This may take a while to arrive, but if your child has been tested and you do not receive a message by the end of the school day then please get in touch. School will contact you immediately in the event of a positive result. It is vitally important to remember that even if your child receives a negative result, they must still continue to adhere to all the measures in school and the 'Hands, Face, Space' guidance at all other times.

The second and third tests for each year group will take place on the days indicated below. These will operate slightly differently to the initial test as children will be removed from their class to take the test and then return. A positive result will require the individual to be collected immediately to follow self-isolation guidance, and we will have to trace close contacts in school. As always, we are meeting all Government and NHS advice to ensure we are completing the testing process as safely as possible.

Date	Test 2	Test 3
Thursday 11 th March	Year 11, 12 & 3	
Friday 12 th March	Year 10	
Monday 15 th March	Year 9	Year 11, 12 & 13
Tuesday 16 th March	Year 7 & Year 8	
Wednesday 17 th March		Year 10
Thursday 18 th March		Year 9
Friday 19 th March		Year 7 & Year 8

If your child has not been involved in the first test and now would like to be tested, then please contact the main school office. We appreciate that some children may be anxious about how to take the test, but the school is here to help and support. Next week, home test kits will be available and the practice in school will help make sure the test is completed accurately at home. We will be communicating more information about home testing next week.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

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Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices is only for those individuals who are not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. If someone displays any of the three main symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, new continuous cough, or a loss of taste or smell) they must not attend school and immediately seek a PCR test through the NHS by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/>. Furthermore, if anyone in your household has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, then your child must also self-isolate for 10 days and not attend school. All the relevant Government guidance on self-isolation can be found [here](#). Please do contact the school straight away if your child falls into any of these categories and remember that COVID related absence is coded in a particular way and does not count negatively towards a child's attendance.

Please could I also draw your attention to some key dates that have been rescheduled due to the events this year. We were hopeful that we may have been able to invite you to school for parents evenings but it is clear that this is not going to be possible. We will be communicating specific arrangements prior to each event.

Year 11 Parents Evening: 16th March 2021

Year 9 Choices Evening: 4th May 2021

Year 10 Parents Evening: 25th May 2021

Year 8 Parents Evening: 15th June 2021

Year 7 Parents Evening: 6th July 2021

Year 9 Parents Evening: 13th July 2021

In the next few weeks, we will also be able to confirm plans for the Year 8 (postponed from Year 7) Dyffryn residential experience and also Key Stage 4 school photographs. We understand that these are important events and I am sure you will appreciate the difficulty of confirming dates given the circumstances.

The closing date for response to our consultation on the Relationships and Sex Education policy was on Wednesday 3rd March. I can confirm that we will be making no amendments to the policy and the Governing Board will now consider the document for ratification.

This week has been a significant moment for us all as the children return to school and the Government's plan to ease the lockdown starts to take effect. We must all remember that this is only the first step of the process, and everyone has a responsibility to continue to follow all guidance in everything we do. Hopefully, this will help to ensure other restrictions can be lifted on the dates set out by the Prime Minister. I have been so impressed with the children this week that I am confident that the Stafford Manor High School community will certainly play their part in ensuring this can happen. Keep positive and continue to look after yourselves.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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