



9th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well and have managed to safely enjoy the half term holiday as well as the autumnal excitement of Halloween and Bonfire Night. Staff at school certainly have a renewed energy following the short break, and we will continue to introduce new initiatives through this half term to enhance the quality of the educational experience we provide at Stafford Manor High School. Please be reassured that your child is at the heart of everything we do, and we constantly strive to provide a supportive environment for every individual to flourish and fulfil their potential.

COVID Safety - As always, it is also important for us to provide a safe environment for everyone at school. Fortunately, the number of confirmed COVID cases in Stafford appears to be falling and we currently have a much lower number of confirmed cases in school compared to earlier this term. However, we must not become complacent and it is still important for everyone at school to continue to follow all the hygiene measures including the wearing of face coverings on corridors and indoor communal spaces. From this week, we will be allowing Year 7 and 8 pupils to once again use the canteen facilities at lunch time. If rates continue to remain low we will consider relaxing some more of the additional measures implemented through last half term. A [letter](#) was distributed last week reinforcing the continued importance of weekly testing and information about the vaccinations for 12-15 year old pupils.

Online Safety & Social Media - As we have become so familiar with keeping ourselves safe from viruses and illnesses, it is equally important to keep children safe online. We will be distributing some guidance for parents and carers on the safe use of social media and other online platforms. We also have information on the [COVID](#) or the [Internet Safety](#) page of our website to support families. The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) also has a range of advice and how to report inappropriate online content.

It is important that you monitor your child's use of the internet and discuss the importance of staying safe online as well using social media in an appropriate way. We all need to be aware of the impact making negative or inappropriate comments on social media accounts can have on other people's wellbeing. Furthermore, the creation of fake or anonymous accounts that impersonate another individual is not acceptable and could lead to police involvement. If you would like to talk about your child's use of the internet or have any concerns in this area then please do not hesitate to contact the main school office.

Road Safety - It is fantastic for the environment, safety and health of youngsters that so many of our pupils walk, ride or scoot to school. It is vital that they do this as safely as possible and take care when crossing roads. If you do need to collect your child from school at the end of the day by car, then please consider parking a short distance away from the school gate. Doing this will help reduce the amount of congestion and improve safety on Hesketh Road as children leave school.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

Parents Evening - We will be using 'School Cloud' for parents evenings this year. This online system is used by many schools across the country and is a much more efficient way of receiving important information on your child's progress. The platform enables you to book appointments with your child's teachers, speak to them online rather than visiting the school, and will eliminate the need to wait unnecessarily as appointment times cannot overrun. Further information will be released prior to each parents evening and all you will need is access to a mobile phone, tablet or computer with an internet connection. The dates of each evening were issued in the update before half term and can be found on our [website](#).

Achievement Points - Along with the many existing awards we currently provide to recognise children's successes, we are now introducing certificates and badges when children reach specific achievement point totals. For 200 achievement points a Bronze award will be issued, 400 points will earn a Silver award, 600 a Gold award, and 800 points the Platinum award. All children can aim to achieve these benchmarks and wear their badge with pride when they have reached each total. You can keep track of your child's achievements by downloading SIMS Parent App to your mobile device. Please contact school if you need some assistance with this.

Homework - Completing work at home is vital for your child to fulfil their academic potential, but it also develops crucial skills that prove invaluable in becoming a lifelong learner. We have tweaked our approach this term to help pupils develop strong habits to complete their homework – look out for more details that will be shared shortly. Please support your child in completing their homework as we know from experience that this is fundamental to an individual's future success.

Parent Survey - We are always willing to go the extra mile for your child and your views are very important to us. We would very much appreciate a few minutes of your time to complete our survey and let us know what is important to you and how we can further enhance the educational experience for your child. Every response is important to us and your thoughts are provided anonymously. All views will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please complete the survey using this [link](#) and help shape the future of your child's education. Staffordshire County Council are also keen to collect views of residents to find out how COVID has affected the lives of people. You can complete their survey by following this [link](#).

It has been really encouraging to see so many new families who move to the area choosing Stafford Manor High School for their child. There have been numerous in year admissions since September and we have over one hundred first choice preferences for the Year 7 September 2022 start. We do not underestimate the importance of selecting the right school for your child and appreciate the confidence that families have in our school.

As Stafford Manor High School goes from strength to strength and becomes more popular, we will retain our unique status as a small high school. This is to ensure that your child will continue to receive a highly personalised experience where all staff genuinely care about each and every pupil. Thank you for your continued support and do take care.

Yours sincerely



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