



10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to my first update of the new academic year. It has been fantastic to see lots of happy children return to school following the summer break. I would like to congratulate all pupils on the positive start they have made to the year, engaging with their learning whilst following the measures in place to ensure everyone remains as safe as possible. Our new Year 7 pupils have been particularly impressive as they settle into the new routines of high school life!

Although pupils are experiencing a more familiar school environment, it remains crucially important that we continue to follow all guidance to limit the transmission of COVID at school and within the wider community. **Fundamental to this, is staying at home and self-isolating if you have any of the three main symptoms of the virus (a high temperature, new continuous cough, a loss of taste and/or smell). Similarly, if an individual tests positive using a Lateral Flow Device, they must stay at home and seek a PCR test immediately.** Please do inform the school straight away in either situation and we can provide advice if necessary.

Since the start of term, we have had a small number of children test positive for the virus and they are self-isolating as instructed by NHS Test and Trace. In line with the latest Public Health guidance, schools are no longer required to identify close contacts of a positive case. NHS Test and Trace will now be carrying out this task and informing individuals if further actions are required. However, the current situation demonstrates the importance of home testing to ensure we identify asymptomatic cases, prevent the spread of the virus, and ultimately protect each other. **Please support your child with testing every Monday and Thursday morning and report the result to the NHS.** There is no longer a need to report the result to school unless it is a positive result. We have distributed home test kits this week to all pupils who received test kits last year, and anyone involved in on site testing at the start of this term. If your child has not received a home test kit and you would like them to have one, please contact the main school office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child to have a strong start to the new school year. Your help and encouragement makes such a difference and allows them to achieve their very best. **Please continue to ensure your child arrives at school by 8.40am in the morning so they are ready for the start of the school day.** At Stafford Manor High School, we know that success comes from hard work, strong attendance, wearing uniform correctly and with pride, completing homework on time, and following the advice from their teacher. Working together on these basic elements will support your child achieve grades that reflect their true potential.

It is great to see the vast majority of our pupils return to school looking smart and taking pride in their appearance. Our uniform policy is available on our [website](#) and the vast majority of pupils adhere to these expectations throughout the year. When an individual wears their

Headteacher:  
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: [office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk)

uniform correctly and looks smart, it puts them in the right mind-set to work smart, which will lead to greater success. It is also important that all pupils are prepared to learn by having all the correct equipment in line with our 'Super 7'. This year your child will have a form tutor who will be completing daily checks every morning to ensure they are supported in these areas and ready for their lessons. The form tutor will also be a point of communication for you should you have any questions or concerns.

Last term we launched [SIMS ParentApp](#) that provides important information about your child including their timetable, attendance, and achievement points. This is a great app that keeps you updated with key information at school and allows you to celebrate your child's success. It is also useful to have the 'Show My Homework' app ([Satchel:One](#)) that helps you see homework that has been set and when it is due to be handed in. Both these apps are simple to use and we would encourage you to download them if you have not done so already. If you do need any assistance with either then you can always contact the main school office

**On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, the photographer will be in school to take photographs of all pupils.** Parents and carers will be able to purchase copies through the photographer in the normal way if they so wish. It is vitally important that all pupils are adhering to our uniform policy for their photograph. Due to systems and procedures in school, unfortunately we will be unable to provide the opportunity for sibling photographs this year.

**We are pleased to announce that we are planning to hold our annual Open Evening on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.** It is our intention that this will be a face-to-face event so that prospective parents can gain a true experience our amazing school. We appreciate that choosing a new school for your child is not an easy decision, and would like to do all we can to help parents and carers make the right choice. I can assure you that we will be doing everything that is feasibly possible to ensure the event is safe for all concerned. The event will be by appointment only and further details will be shared next week. In the meantime, prospective parents can gain lots of information about Stafford Manor High School by visiting the [Year 7 Admissions 2022](#) page on our website. Obviously, should circumstances change significantly, we may have to amend plans or arrange an alternative opportunity for families.

The start of term has certainly brought the unique 'buzz' and a more familiar feeling back to Stafford Manor High School as the children experience a high quality education and unrivalled level of support. All our staff are committed to our vision to 'Inspire Lifelong Learning' and put the children at the heart of everything we do. Working together with parents and carers will make sure we focus on their future and allow our children to flourish and fulfil their potential. As ever, please contact the main school office if you have and questions or require any advice or support.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Lycett  
Headteacher

**Headteacher:**  
**Mr R Lycett**

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ  
Tel: (01785) 258383  
Email: [office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk)