



24th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your family are well. The summer term is now well under way and everyone at Stafford Manor High School remains committed to ensuring the pupils have the best possible educational experience despite the extensive safety measures that remain in school. Although transmission rates remain relatively low in Stafford, they are rising and neighbouring areas within Staffordshire are experiencing high rates of transmission. Furthermore, it is very clear that the 11 to 18 age group is where the Delta variant is most prevalent. As I have mentioned before, it is important that we do not become complacent and continue to follow the guidance to protect ourselves and the people around us.

A key strategy for us to ensure school is as safe as possible is for pupils to continue to test at home every Monday and Thursday morning. Please continue to encourage and support your child to carry out their tests. It is also very important to report the result to us at school through the online form, as well as reporting to the [NHS](#). The Secretary of State for Education has written an [open letter](#) to parents and carers about the importance of home testing. Should your child test positive through the Lateral Flow Device, please let school know straight away and you must seek a confirmatory PCR test through the [NHS](#) or by calling 119. In the event of any positive test result, we will have to trace close contacts who will then be required to self-isolate in line with the latest Government guidance.

It remains the case that if an individual develops one of the three main symptoms of COVID (a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of taste and/or smell) they must not attend school, the household must self-isolate, and a PCR test must be booked through the [NHS](#) immediately. Please also inform the school as soon as possible as we will be required to trace close contacts who will need to self-isolate for 10 days in the event of a positive test result. Over the course of the pandemic, the fact all parents have followed this advice and the instructions provided by the school has contributed to the fact that we do not have any evidence of transmission between individuals at school. Thank you all for your continued cooperation and understanding.

It is important for you to be aware that the Government have provided contingency planning advice for schools if the transmission rates increase within the local community. This would involve the school liaising with the local public health protection team who might instruct us to take a range of actions. For example, this could include reintroducing the wearing of face coverings inside the building, or if rates increase significantly, particular cohorts might have to remain at home for a specified period. We are aware that additional measures have been implemented in schools in other parts of Staffordshire over the last few weeks. Obviously, we would communicate with you as swiftly as possible should we receive any instruction to implement additional measures at Stafford Manor High School to reduce local rates of transmission and keep each other safe.

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I am sure you will have been aware of the recent national media reports about sexual abuse and harassment in schools that followed the thousands of accounts reported on the Everyone's Invited platform. I would like to reassure you that everyone at Stafford Manor High School finds this behaviour unacceptable and we will not tolerate any form of abuse or harassment as is reflected in our relevant school policies. It is vital that we continue to educate young people about what is and is not acceptable to support healthy relationships and empower children to have the confidence to speak out. As part of our annual curriculum review process, we are undertaking a full review of our PSHE and RSHE programme to identify where we can address key priority areas identified by the Government. Furthermore, our highly skilled and experienced staff will be taking advantage of any additional training provided to support and care for our youngsters in the best possible way. If you do have any concerns or would like to talk to us about this topic then please do not hesitate to contact us at school through the main school office.

As the current warm weather (hopefully) continues, we continue to encourage all children to be as 'self-contained' as possible so it is certainly worth them bringing a refillable water bottle to school. With regards uniform, it is important to stress that skirts must be worn in line with our uniform policy and be knee length. When children wear their PE kit, shorts must be no shorter than mid-thigh length and we encourage sports leggings or jogging bottoms to be worn through the day. It is important that we continue to work together to ensure children meet uniform and equipment expectations. We know that when children are wearing their uniform correctly and bring the correct equipment to school, their academic performance improves, as they are ready and prepared to learn.

There are lots of events happening through the remainder of this term despite the restrictions that are still in place. We are currently completing our transition process for our new Year 7 pupils who will be joining us in September. I know everyone at school is looking forward to welcoming the youngsters and new families to the Stafford Manor High School community. We are currently planning our Sports Day for all pupils so that a range of events can be completed in a COVID secure way. Similarly, we will be holding our End of Year Awards ceremony towards the end of term, but unfortunately will not be able to invite parents along this year. Gradually, we have been able to reintroduce events and opportunities that provide important experiences for the children and celebrate the achievements of our amazing pupils.

Finally, I can confirm that pupils are expected to attend school on Friday 25th June. This is no longer a teacher training day due to schools being able to move a training day to Friday 18th December 2020 prior to the start of the Christmas Holiday. I am sure we all welcome the fact that children will not miss a further day of education given the school closures experienced this academic year. We continue to appreciate your support and cooperation, and if you have any queries then please contact the main school office. Take care.

Yours sincerely



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