



25th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the midpoint of the first half term of 2021 and it is important to pause, take some time to reflect, and be proud of what you and your child has achieved. At the same time it is inevitable that we will look ahead for some certainty around when children might be able to return to school. I am afraid, we currently have no further details other than school will remain closed to the majority of pupils until at least February half term. The Government has recently announced that we will all be given two weeks notice prior to schools being able to welcome children back to classrooms. As soon as we have any information to share, please be assured that we will be in contact with you. In the meantime, we will continue to do all we can to provide the very best quality education and support for you and your child.

Remember that the COVID section on our website contains a wealth of information to keep you informed and help you through the time your child is at home. This information is there to keep you updated with latest developments, provide help with your child's learning at home, and signpost a range of organisations that can help support our health and wellbeing through the weeks ahead.

Main COVID page – This contains the latest key information on the virus and how this impacts on school. You can view our COVID Risk Assessment, detailed guidance on how school has implemented a range of measures to ensure we are COVID secure, and how to contact the school for normal enquiries or if you have a safeguarding concern. We have also provided useful links that can help keep your child safe online. This may be particularly useful as it is Safer Internet Day on Wednesday 27th January.

COVID Updates page – You will find an archive of all the updates distributed since the start of the coronavirus pandemic. It may be useful to know that if you do miss an update then it will always be uploaded here for parents and carers to view.

Wellbeing and Family Support page – We believe this page is extremely helpful as it contains a whole host of links to organisations that can support you and your child. Whether you want to find the latest Government guidance, apply for free school meals, or find an organisation that will help with wellbeing then this is the page to go to. We appreciate that there is a lot of information but it is certainly worthwhile to have a look through to find out what might be out there for you during these challenging times.

Remote Learning and Remote Learning Links page – These two pages have only been developed relatively recently. Here you will find all the information you need regards our educational provision whilst your child is learning at home. We have also added lots of 'How to' guides and support that will help your child engage with their learning online.

So why not have a look at <https://www.staffordmanorhighschool.com/covid-19-updates>

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We continue to be impressed by the children's attitude towards their learning at home and the interactions through Teams continue to be extremely productive. Increasing numbers of pupils are realising the benefits of participating in the live support and it is important to stress that cameras and microphones should be switched off. This does mean that you can still see and listen to what is being discussed by the teacher, and can still ask questions through the 'chat' function. However, no-one will see and hear you which may help if your child is a little anxious about getting involved. We are contacting homes if children are not completing work to discuss ways we can support. It is important that children submit their work once complete and a help guide is attached to explain how to do this via Teams. Remember it is vitally important that your child keeps up to date with their work whilst at home. We are very understanding of individual circumstances and you can contact us if you have any concerns or need some advice regards your child's learning at home.

It is also very important to encourage your child to engage with activities beyond the school day that can help with their health and wellbeing. For example, you could go for a walk or jog, play a board game, or even spend some time baking a cake or biscuits! Communicating with family and friends can also help children share experiences and relax after a hard days work. Taking the opportunity to spend time with your child doing something together other than school work may even prove valuable when motivating them the following day.

As I mentioned in my update last week, we will be responding to the Department for Education and Ofqual's consultation document regarding the awarding of GCSE and A Level grades this summer. We will be prioritising the needs of Stafford Manor High School pupils in our response. However, they are also really interested to hear the views of parents, carers and young people, so please feel free to look at the document and send in your views if you wish. You can find a copy of the consolation by following the link below.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/953000/6743-1_GCSE_AS_and_A_level_grades_should_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf

We do know that supporting your child's learning at home is hard work and you may be feeling exhausted but you are doing a great job! It is understandable that you may also be anxious and uncertain about the next few weeks. I would encourage you to stay focused on doing all you can to continue supporting your child with their work. With the increase in the number of vaccinations taking place, perhaps we can actually start to be more certain that we will regain a sense of normality at some point later in the year. If you do need any help or assistance then please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Stay positive and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



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