



12th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you and your family are well. Over the last two weeks, we have seen the national rise in the number of COVID cases impact on school, and we have had to ask some groups to self-isolate. The decision to ask pupils to remain at home is never taken lightly and always done in consultation with the Local Outbreak Team. I can assure you that we do understand the impact this can have on a pupil's education, their wellbeing, as well as family life. However, we must continue to follow all the guidance so we prevent the spread of the virus.

Over the last week or so, there have been numerous Government announcements about the country moving to Step 4 of the roadmap on 19th July and the impact on schools. However, I can confirm that existing arrangements in school will remain in place until the end of term. The vast majority of changes in guidance for schools will come into effect in the new academic year when we will be finally able to return some more familiar routines at school.

The last day of this academic year will be Wednesday 21st July. As usual at the end of the summer term, this will be a shortened day. We will maintain a staggered end to the day so children will be leaving at the times indicated below. A lunch service will still be provided by our canteen on the last day, although this will be earlier than normal.

Year Group	Start Time (As normal)	End Time (Wednesday 21 st July only)
7	8.45am	12.20pm
8	8.55am	12.30pm
9	9.00am	12.35pm
10	8.50am	12.25pm

The student council have organised a non-uniform day for the last day of term. We ask pupils to bring a donation of £1 in aid of local good causes including the Blue Cross for Pets charity that aims to support families requiring medical help with their pets. I would like to thank the student council for their efforts to support our community through these challenging times.

For the remaining days of this term, please continue to encourage and support your child to carry out their home tests every Monday and Thursday morning. Should your child test positive through the Lateral Flow Device, they must stay at home and please let school know straight away. You must seek a confirmatory PCR test through the [NHS](#) or by calling 119.

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. In the event of any positive test result, we are still required to trace close contacts who will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with public health guidance.

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We are enjoying Sports Days taking place this week with pupils competing in a range of events and competitions in a COVID secure way. We will be holding our End of Year Awards ceremony at the end of term, where we will celebrate pupil's achievements and award a wide range of certificates, prizes, and the highly coveted subject shields. Despite the significant challenges this year, we are immensely proud of how so many of our amazing pupils have coped with circumstances and worked so hard. We certainly believe all their achievements deserve recognition.

Looking ahead to September, the new operational guidance for schools will allow the return of familiar patterns and routines that we all associate with secondary school life. At Stafford Manor High School, throughout the pandemic we have prioritised the education of our pupils alongside their safety. It is pleasing to see that significant further steps forward will be possible in achieving these aims in the new academic year.

Schools have been asked to test children twice on site using Lateral Flow Devices on their return to school in September. This will take place in a similar way to when children returned to school in March. We will be staggering the return days for different year groups in line with Government guidance to allow testing to take place safely. Further details about return days, testing, and any additional important information about the new academic year will be communicated with you before the end of term.

Although we only have a few days remaining of this school year, we must continue to follow all the advice and guidance. If we do have a positive case in school, unfortunately we will have to instruct close contact to self-isolate for 10 days. However, maintaining our system of controls will hopefully help to minimise the number of close contacts needing to follow this advice. We continue to appreciate your support and cooperation, and if you have any queries then please contact the main school office. Please do look after yourselves and take care.

Yours sincerely



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