



15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As the end of the first half term of the academic year approaches, we can all reflect on what has been another challenging few weeks. As the number of confirmed COVID cases in schools across the country has increased this term, I am proud that at Stafford Manor High School we have successfully balanced the need to keep people safe, whilst focusing on providing the best quality of education possible for our children. Indeed, the pupils have been a real credit as they have had to adjust to another set of systems and procedures.

Despite the increase in confirmed cases, it does appear that our existing systems and additional measures have kept transmission under control at school. Therefore, we will continue with existing arrangements after half term until we are confident that some measures can be relaxed. Please remind your child to bring a face covering to school with them every day. These are to be worn in corridors and communal spaces. If we see a cluster of positive cases developing in a class or year group, we will contact immediately to recommend a PCR test and remind you of some key actions that help to keep everyone as safe as possible.

It remains vitally important to encourage and support your child with home testing twice a week. If your child has not previously received home test kits from school and you would like them, please do not hesitate to contact the main school office. We also urge you to report your test results to the [NHS](#), even if they are negative. Reporting the results helps the school in tracking cases and securing future support.

We are still waiting for confirmation of a rearranged date from the School Immunisation Team for flu vaccinations and COVID vaccinations for children age 12-15 years old. Accompanying this update is some information about vaccinations from Staffordshire County Council that we have been asked to share with you. If you would like your child to receive the COVID vaccine, you can still provide consent by returning the form to school.

If your child is displaying any of the three main symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, or a loss of taste and/or smell) then they must not attend school and you must seek a PCR test immediately. If a member of your household tests positive for COVID-19, it is strongly recommended that all members of your household get PCR tests as a precaution. We are also now being advised by the County Council that people should stay at home until you receive the result – this will normally take 48-72 hours.

Remember that Friday 22nd October is a training day and school is closed to pupils. Therefore, Thursday 21st October is the final day of the term for pupils and the School Council have arranged a 'Race for Life' event on the school field. This involves all children having the opportunity (weather permitting) to run, jog, or walk laps of the school field. Mrs Thorley and Mr Chadwick are aiming to run the equivalent of a marathon through the day and we will all be providing them as much support as possible! Thursday will also be a non-uniform day and we ask all children to bring a donation of £1 in support of Cancer Research. This will provide a really positive end to the half term that we hope the pupils will enjoy.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

We will look forward to all pupils returning to school on Monday 1st November 2022. As always we expect pupils to be wearing their correct school uniform and following all aspects of our school [uniform policy](#). We have a number of exciting developments taking place next half term that should further improve the educational experience we provide for our pupils and the information you receive regards your child's performance at school.

We will be launching a new online system for parents evenings through the remainder of this school year. This system is widely used by schools, and allows you to speak to your child's subject teachers all from the comfort of home! Whilst we continue to do all we can to minimise interactions through the pandemic, this system will also help keep our community safe. The dates scheduled for Parents Evening and Annual Reports can be found below.

Year	Parents Evening	Annual Report issue during the week commencing ...
7	8 th March 2022	27 th June 2022
8	11 th January 2022	11 th July 2022
9	14 th June 2022	31 st January 2022
10	23 rd November 2021	21 st March 2022
11	25 th January 2022	13 th December 2021

Later in the next half term, we will also look to hold an update for Year 7 parents to provide feedback on how your child has settled during the first term. We will also be holding our annual Sixth Form Partnership Open Evening for Year 11 students to support them in making the right decision for the next phase of their education.

During 'Future Pathways' week, we will be issuing all pupils with log-in details to Unifrog. This is an online careers platform that will help children receive the latest information to guide them on possible future career choices. Unifrog will be accessible from school and at home so parents will be able to support their child through key decisions such as the Key Stage 4 choices process. We are also enhancing our homework provision so that we work together with families to build the essential characteristics within pupils that will help them achieve the best grades possible and prepare them as lifelong learners.

This half term will end with us celebrating the successes of so many of our students, as we award certificates and prizes for the number of achievement points gained. 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. We are also looking to introduce some new awards next term to recognise all the positive actions of our fantastic pupils.

We will share more details on each of the above as we are ready to launch each initiative. Although we remained as focused as ever on ensuring everyone is safe at school, to keep transmission to a minimum, these developments reflect the determination at Stafford Manor High School to continually make improvements in what we do so we are providing the very best for your child. Take care and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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