



22nd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to my first update of the new term. I hope you are well and have had a good Easter break. Despite the fact that there is still plenty of guidance that we must all continue to follow, as the summer approaches, there is also plenty to look forward to during the term ahead.

Earlier this week we distributed a letter from the Director of Health and Care at Staffordshire County Council that explained the latest guidance on testing. Please do read the information which can be found on the [COVID updates](#) section of our website. Thank you for continuing to support your child to complete their home tests every Monday and Thursday morning. We also appreciate you completing the online form to let us know of the test result. New test packs will be issued to pupils early next week but please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you require additional packs before then. Do remember that if your child has a positive Lateral Flow Test result, or is showing the three main symptoms of COVID (a high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss of taste and/or smell), they must stay at home and seek a [PCR test](#) immediately. You must also inform the school and follow all self-isolation guidance.

We continue to follow all Government guidance within school to ensure we are doing all that is feasibly possible to keep pupils and staff safe. The latest update to our [Risk Assessment](#) can be found on our school website. We are very fortunate that there have been no confirmed positive cases at school since we reopened on the 8th March 2021. I would like to think that this can be attributed to everyone at school following all the systems and procedures we have implemented since the start of the academic year. In line with Government guidance, we continue to expect face coverings to be worn inside the building, including classrooms. As the number of cases falls nationally and more people become vaccinated, it is also important that we continue to follow all the advice around 'hands, face, space'.

At the start of the new term we have continued to focus on ensuring that we provide the very best education for your child. We are pleased that we can now use more of our specialist rooms such as the Science Laboratories, Technology Workshop and Art Studio with our Key Stage 3 pupils. We are also introducing after school sports clubs for Key Stage 3 with specific year groups on separate evenings. I must reassure you that these actions are undertaken safely and in line with the 'system of controls' contained within the guidance for schools. We are really excited to be able to now offer these opportunities and this will ensure all children are developing the important practical skills required to be successful in these subject areas.

It is also very important that pupils are wearing our school uniform in line with [expectations](#). We know that children are more focused and ready to learn when they are dressed smartly in their uniform. Thank you for your help in supporting your child with this. If you do require any assistance with uniform then please do not hesitate to contact the main school office.

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We have also been very clear with all pupils regarding the standards and expectations we have towards behaviour in school. We will not tolerate any inappropriate behaviour that impacts on the learning of other pupils in the classroom, or is disrespectful to another individual. For all our pupils to be successful in their learning, it is vital that everyone meets our expectations, to ensure the learning environment allows progress to be made and your child to flourish. If any individual does not meet these expectations, our [Behaviour Policy](#) clearly outlines possible sanctions. In such circumstances, we will always communicate with parents and maintain our principle of resolution. I am sure you will understand that it is vital that we work together to reinforce school expectations to facilitate the future success of your child.

We continue to award achievement points for all the positive behaviour we see in school every single day. We now have a well-established system of awards that is constantly being developed and enhanced. We do hope that we may be able to reintroduce award trips and parent award assemblies at some point. So many of our pupils are truly amazing individuals who are a credit to themselves and their families. I am hugely proud of all the pupils who receive prizes, certificates, positive messages home, praise post cards, or get entered into our prize draws at the end of each term. Well done and keep it up!

Looking ahead, this term we have some key events to be aware of. Next week we will be releasing a series of video clips and information for our Year 9 pupils that will help them make their subject choices for their GCSE's. There will also be an opportunity for Year 9 parents to have a personalised consultation with a member of staff on the 4th May if necessary. We have rearranged school photographs for Year 10 and 11 pupils to be taken on Wednesday 12th May. We hope to also be able to take the photographs of any Key Stage 3 pupils who were not in school on the days photographs were taken before Christmas. Our Year 11 pupils are working hard this half term to complete their evidence for the awarding of GCSE grades this year. Year 11 will be required to attend school up to Friday 28th May 2021. After half term and up to the end of June, Year 11 pupils will not be required to attend school each day but will need to be available to come in to school if required, and there will be transition activities to help with the next phase of their education. Further details will be issued specifically to parents of Year 11 pupils in the next few days. Finally, we will be completing the remaining Parents Evenings through individual consultations and details will be issued prior to each date.

I am sure you are feeling more positive as the national restrictions are gradually relaxed. It is important that we enjoy these freedoms but keep following all the guidance. We want to ensure that we all stay safe, and your child's education has no further interruptions and everything is in place to allow them to fulfil their potential. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any support.

Yours sincerely



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