



17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this final update of the school year finds you and your families well. The last few months have been very different for us all, and especially for the children at Stafford Manor High School. I am writing this letter to the parents and carers of our older students as many of them will be moving on to the next phase of their education in September.

For our Year 11 students, we are very much aware that they have missed many of the end of secondary school experiences, including examinations and the prom, that have previously always been taken for granted. We were pleased to be able to organise and run the leavers assembly before school closed to say farewell to students and do the usual 'shirt signing' and shedding of tears! You will have hopefully been contacted by school to ensure your child's plans are in place for September, whether it is to join the Sixth Form Partnership, attend College or start an apprenticeship.

GCSE results day is on Thursday 20th August and you should have received the letter regards the collection of results. We do have to do things slightly differently this year to keep everyone safe. However, we are pleased to be able to invite all students in to collect their results, have a chat, and help them if they need support about next steps in September. In the Autumn term we will be looking to arrange our annual presentation of certificates for Year 11 students. If circumstances allow, we are very much committed to inviting you and your child to an extra special event towards the end of the Autumn term.

On Friday 10th July the Prime Minister made a special address to all school leavers. This is certainly worth watching and the link is <https://youtu.be/R-WsDuO6Gmw>

The first day of the new term at Stafford Manor High School is **Thursday 3rd September 2020**. Over the holiday period a lot of hard work will continue at school to prepare for the students return. We continue to prioritise the safety of everyone on site, alongside providing a quality broad and balanced curriculum for all. For those students in Year 11 who are returning to Sixth Form and for Year 12 students who will be completing their final year with us, it is important to understand that school will be different in the new term. Our Key Stage 3 and 4 students have staggered start and end times of the day to keep groups separate. For Year 12 and 13 students in September, the Partnership timetable will remain in place with the same timings. Due to the small number of sixth form students at school, they can safely arrive at school through main reception for the start of their lesson and walk directly to their classroom. The information shared with parents throughout the closure period can be found on the COVID section of our school website. More details will be distributed to all parents and carers before the start of the new academic year.

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I appreciate the fact a lot of information has been distributed to parents and carers over recent weeks. I feel it has been important to keep everyone updated and communicate regularly with the latest guidance and expectations. I will pause from sending updates through the summer holiday so we can all have a rest! Should circumstances change over the holiday period regarding school opening in September, we will be in touch with you in the two weeks before the start of the new term. The school office will be closed over the holiday period and please be aware that the school phones will not be monitored and the school email will not be checked as regularly as normal. School will be open on A Level Results day on Thursday 13th August and GCSE Results day on Thursday 20th August should you have a query, and we will aim to respond to you within 48 hours.

The Covid-19 section of our website has plenty of advice and links to where you can get help on a range of areas through the summer holiday. This week's additions include a link to some advice from Staffordshire Police and how you can protect your child online over the summer <https://www.staffordmanorhighschool.com/covid-19-updates>.

We know that the past few months have not been easy for many of you for a whole host of different reasons. I would like to pass on a huge 'thank you' from everyone at Stafford Manor High School for supporting your child's education the best way you can. We have probably all learned something during this period of lockdown, and I am sure we are now all experts in how to turn ourselves off mute on Zoom or Teams! We wish every single student all the very best for the future and hope you achieve all of your dreams and ambitions. We will always remember you as the very unique class of 2020!

As we entered the decade of 2020, I am sure none of us could have imagined what lay ahead of us. These certainly have been unprecedented times and I sincerely hope that we are now on the road to recovery, even if it might be a long and 'bumpy' journey. If you or your family have lost a loved one, or suffered as a result of this terrible virus then my thoughts are with you. Alongside the challenging times, I hope you will have had some fantastic experiences from spending time with people around you. Please hold on to the moments of brilliance, the times when you came together with your family and friends to support each other simply because it made someone feel better. My hope is that we can all take something positive from our experiences from the last few months to help our children build a better future. More than ever we need to inspire them to achieve more than they could have imagined, and enable them to flourish and fulfil their amazing potential. Let us not see this as the end of something terrible, but make it the beginning of something truly remarkable. Wherever they are studying in September, the children of Stafford Manor High School deserve the very best and we can all make that happen for them. Have a good summer holiday. Stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely



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