



4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I hope that you managed to have a peaceful and relaxing break over the Christmas period and you and your family are healthy. I am aware that some of the school community have been directly affected by coronavirus over the last two weeks. If this applies to you then our thoughts are with you and everyone at Stafford Manor High School wishes you well. With vaccinations now being administered across the country, I am confident that 2021 will bring a return to some sense of normality for us at some point. In the meantime we must continue to follow all the guidance to keep each other safe and minimise the impact of this terrible virus.

We look forward to welcoming back pupils to school in line with the latest government guidance. On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December the advice for schools was updated so that all **Year 11 and 13 pupils will now return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** for face to face lessons. **Year 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 pupils will now return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.** In line with Tier 4 guidance, all pupils must remain at home and access remote learning from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We will be using Show My homework and Microsoft Teams to provide remote learning and further details will be sent later today. If your child is entitled to free school meals, we will be in touch to let you know when you can collect your food parcel for the week. If there are any further changes to Government advice regards your child's return to school, we will inform you accordingly.

Any children whose parents are classed as 'critical workers' can notify us if they require their child to return to school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. At Stafford Manor High School we are always happy to support families of critical workers and frontline emergency services. If you fall into this category then please contact the main school office. Vulnerable children are also eligible to attend school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and we will be in touch with individual families to establish whether they would like their child to access school through the week.

The Government has introduced a 'staggered return' at the start of the spring term as the number of coronavirus cases are increasing across the country. They have also announced that secondary schools can prepare to offer rapid testing to staff and pupils. The aim of rapid testing is to identify asymptomatic cases to limit the spread of the virus and minimise the number of individuals who have to self-isolate from school. At Stafford Manor High School we are fully committed to doing everything that is feasibly possible to keep everyone safe from this virus. Implementing a testing programme may well prove to be one approach that supports this aim, but we will only do this when we are in a position to safely comply with all the guidance. Lateral flow tests would be used as part of the programme and would be self-administered by pupils, and staff would only be there to supervise the process. As I mentioned at the end of last term, we will communicate clearly with you and seek your consent prior to any testing programme for pupils being introduced at school. As soon as we have further information to share with you then we will be in touch.

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Rushton to the staff team at Stafford Manor High School. Mrs Rushton joins us as Assistant Headteacher and will be focusing on ensuring we are doing all we can to support our children with special educational needs, pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding, and children in care. This involves Mrs Rushton being our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator and she will be working closely with Mrs Bradbury through the next few weeks to get to know children and families.

I do believe that this year will eventually provide us all with the freedom that we are longing for. However, as we are now in Tier 4, it is clear we need to be patient, continue to follow all the guidance and work together to support each other and protect our family and loved ones. As always, if you do have any questions or need any help, then please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Lycett  
Headteacher

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