



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that this update continues to find you and your family well. At the end of last week you may be aware that the latest Government guidance was released on the opening of schools in September. This confirmed that all students will return to school full time at the start of the autumn term. We are so pleased to be welcoming back students and the first day of term is planned to be Thursday September 3rd 2020.

Over the next week we will be working through the 'system of controls' to update our risk assessments and identify all the measures that need to be implemented to make our school 'COVID- secure'. Our priority, alongside the education of students, remains the safety of children and staff. I can assure you that we will continue to do everything that is feasibly possible to meet this aim as the new academic year starts.

As we digest the guidance and plan for September, there will be plenty of information to share with you about how Stafford Manor High School will open safely for all students. To date, a calm and measured approach has ensured the successful return of year 10 and 12 students, and I intend to be controlled in our response to the latest guidance to get everything right for your child. I will make sure you have as much detail as possible before the end of term to explain how the school will function when we open in September. In the meantime, rather than explain specifics, I will share some of the main principles that the Government wish schools to build into their 'systems of controls'.

- **One of the main preventative measures is to ensure that anyone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus should not attend school.** It is vital that if your child or anyone in your household is displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 you must not send your child to school and follow all NHS advice on testing and self-isolation. Furthermore, should an individual develop symptoms whilst at school, there are very clear protocols for us to follow to minimise the risks to everyone on the site. In such circumstances, or if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at the school, we will be closely following the advice of the local outbreak protection team. In the event of a local or national outbreak, and school has to close to some or all pupils, staff have already been planning for how to seamlessly transition to providing quality remote learning at home.
- **Hand hygiene is crucial as coronavirus is an easy virus to kill when it is on the skin.** This can be done with soap and running water or hand sanitiser. An increased number of hand sanitisers have already been installed and more will follow if necessary. We will be building in clear routines at school to ensure regular and thorough hand washing takes place.
- **Good respiratory hygiene must be maintained and the 'catch it, kill it, bin it' approach continues to be very important.** Our hygiene stations will be in every classroom to support students and staff to follow this routine. Public Health England

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does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools and we will be following this course of action.

- **Enhanced cleaning routines are vital to ensure frequently touched surfaces are regularly cleaned with detergents and bleach.** There will be even more frequent cleaning of rooms, contact points, and shared facilities such as the dining hall and toilets.
- **Minimising contacts between individuals and groups of students whilst delivering a broad and balanced curriculum reduces transmission of coronavirus.** We will continue to be encouraging everyone at school to maintain a distance, but the latest guidance does acknowledge that this is not always possible in schools. To help minimise contacts and movement around the site we will carefully consider whether classes and year groups should remain in specific classrooms or parts of the school through the day. We will prioritise access to specialist facilities such as the DT Workshop, Science Laboratories, Sports Hall and Art Room for GCSE students. Guidance also encourages schools to consider staggered start and finish times to keep year groups apart. This may result in modified timings to the school day and, as a result, there will be staggered break and lunch times for different year groups to avoid mixing. The dining hall will be open in the new term and year groups will have dedicated time slots that they can purchase food. I can guarantee that any changes to the start or finish times, as well as break or lunch times, will not reduce the amount of overall teaching time children receive. We are aiming to do everything possible to avoid compromising the quality of your child's education whilst simultaneously prioritising their safety.

In addition to the above, the guidance does make it very clear that attendance will be compulsory again from the beginning of the Autumn term, and that the usual rules for securing strong attendance will apply. Furthermore, the Government make it clear that for the new Year 11 and 13 students, GCSEs and A levels will take place in summer 2021. Schools have been invited to contribute to a consultation on what adaptations and arrangements might be put in place for these students. I can assure you that we will be responding with our views on behalf of all Stafford Manor High School students.

Clearly, there will be much more detailed information and guidance I will need to provide you with over the next two weeks. I appreciate your patience whilst our fantastic team at school get everything in place to provide an environment that is as safe as possible and continues to provide an effective education. Should you have any questions in the meantime, then please do not hesitate to contact school. By working together, we will make sure that everything practically possible is being done to support your child through the next phase of our journey.

Whilst our minds are filled with what September might look like, it is important to remember that we must also finish this term in style! Thank you for your continued commitment to do the very best to support your child with their home learning. We have made some slight alterations to how we approach learning during the final week. We will introduce Faculty Challenges each day for Years 7 and 8 rather than following the existing timetable. Year 9 and 10 students will continue learning in line with the existing timetable to ensure they are preparing for their GCSEs. Careers Activities will replace the 100 Point Challenge in the afternoons. More details will be distributed next week.

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School will continue to be open during the final week of term for children of key workers and those who fall into the 'vulnerable' category as defined by the Government. We will also maintain the face to face contact for Year 10 and 12 students.

Alongside the usual subject work, Friday 10th July will also be our first Virtual Sports Day! Please encourage your child to get involved and submit their results by 4pm on Monday 13th July. It will be good to see the sporting excellence and competitive spirit of students that is usually evident at school on Sports Day. The PE team are also keen for adults to get involved too!

For the parents of children who are eligible for Free School Meals, we have placed the order for the vouchers to cover the summer holiday period. The voucher will be a sum of £90 per child (£15 per week) to cover the full six weeks. We are hopeful that these will be issued from the 10th July. However, from our experience over the last few months, we know that the Edenred system can sometimes falter, so please be patient and get in touch should you have any difficulties. We will also be distributing the uniform vouchers during the next week to all parents of Pupil Premium children. This will support approximately half the students at school and provide a contribution to the purchase of new uniform from Crested Schoolwear. If you have any questions or concerns around any aspect of school uniform for September, then please do contact the school.

In normal times, we continually update school policies to reflect latest guidance and statutory expectations of schools. Under the current circumstances we have added addendums to policies such as Safeguarding and Behaviour policy. We have also amended our Relationship and Sex Education Policy in line with new statutory guidance from September 2020. Our policies can all be found on the school website by using the following link <https://www.staffordmanorhighschool.com/policies>.

Now more than ever we need to work together to ensure everyone within our community has the confidence to support our children in their return to school. The beginning of a new school year is always a fresh start, and this year will be no different in that respect. However, the fresh start to this school year will be very different to any that I have ever experienced before. However, I know that by working together as a team, the next academic year will be positive, successful and a welcome return to school for everyone, even if it is not quite how we remember it. We continue to be here for you if you have any questions or need any support. Stay positive and stay safe.

Yours sincerely


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Headteacher

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