

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing with several key updates and reminders as this remarkable first half term comes to an end. This letter contains key messages and information about:

- **THANK YOU**
- **COVID-19 REMINDER**
- **CHANGES TO TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY**
- **SCHOOL TRANSPORT**
- **PE KIT and EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS**

THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations and thank you to students, parents, staff and governors for embracing the challenges and navigating the last two months so well. It has been heartening seeing our wider school community pull together, and everybody deserves a pat on the back for the manner in which they have adapted to the 'new normal'.

It has not been easy. We have had 8 positive Covid tests to date and twice sent year group bubbles home, whilst numerous individuals have had to self-isolate and learn, teach or work from home. Nevertheless, it has served to highlight the positive culture we have created at school and reinforced Ofsted's judgement that "Everyone at Stratford upon Avon School is committed to ensuring that pupils are safe, happy and successful. This is achieved really well".

Adherence to our Covid precautionary measures has enabled us to continue functioning smoothly. Students have adapted seamlessly to new routines of hand sanitising, wearing face coverings, restricted movement round the school etc... whilst staff have battled through a nomadic existence breaking Fitbit records and teaching in unfamiliar surroundings. It has been genuinely humbling seeing so many people 'just get on with it' for the greater good. Thank you for doing your best to send your child into school. Given the circumstances, to have 94% attendance at this stage in the year is remarkable when the national average for secondary schools is 86%. The students obviously missed us as much as we missed them! Thank you for playing your part.

COVID-19 REMINDER

Please can you provide washable face coverings for your child. They should carry a spare each day as well. This will help reduce health risks associated with used disposable facemasks being discarded and minimise the environmental impact. May I remind you that **in the event that your family has a positive Covid-19 test, please notify us immediately via Covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk.** This will enable us to respond promptly. I will contact parents via groupcall with Covid-19 related information when it may affect your child and we will also continue to update key information regarding Covid-19 on our website.

Stratford upon Avon School

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Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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CHANGES TO TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

We are always looking for 'marginal gains' and so will be tweaking the timings of the school day again after half term. The thinking behind this is to:

- **Put additional time back into lessons (15mins more in lessons each day)** so that students' education is not disadvantaged by the lockdown.
- **Reduce the length of lunchtime (from 50mins to 30mins + 5mins movement time)** now that the weather is deteriorating. With limited scope for lunchtime activities at present it is hoped that reducing lunchtime will allow for important social time but prevent boredom setting in. Students will still have plenty of time to eat in a 30 minute lunch break because we have minimal queues due to the bubble system.
- **Still expect students to be on site by 8.45am** with lessons beginning at 8.50am. **Please note that new gates will be erected during half term between the main building and the sports hall.** These will be locked during the school day to enhance safeguarding/security. Latecomers after 8.45 will only be admitted via the Late Door (with a 10mins detention that afternoon).
- Retain the staggered exit with Y7,8,9 finishing at 3pm and Y10,11,12,13 finishing at 3.10pm.

The new timings will be:

| | | CHANGE |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Arrive on site | 8.30 – 8.45 | |
| Period 1 | 8.50 – 9.50 | Extended 5mins to 1hour |
| Period 2 | 9.50 – 10.50 | Extended 5mins to 1hour |
| Period 3 – Break (Y7,9,11,13) or horizontal tutor period (Y8,10,12) | 10.50 – 11.15 | |
| Period 4 – Horizontal tutor period (Y7,9,11,13) or Break (Y8,10,12) | 11.15 – 11.40 | |
| Period 5 | 11.40 – 12.35 | |
| Period 6: lunch (Y7,9,11,13) or P6 lesson (Y8,10,12) | 12.35 – 1.10 12.35 – 1.30 | 30mins & 5 mins movement Extended 5mins to 55mins |
| Period 7: P7 lesson (Y7,9,11,13) or lunch (Y8,10,12) | 1.10 – 2.05 1.30 – 2.05 | Extended 5mins to 55mins 30mins & 5 mins movement |
| Period 8 for Year 7,8,9 | 2.05 – 3.00 | |
| Period 8 for Years 10,11,12,13 | 2.05 – 3.10 | |

Please note that students receiving a grade 3 or 4 during a lesson will still automatically be kept behind for 10 minutes by their period 8 teacher.

It is a marginal tweak, but one that should make a positive difference to your child's education.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

May I remind you that:

- **students must use the same seat/row of seats each day and remember or make a note of the seat/row number if available. This will help identify close contacts in the event of a positive Covid test.**
- students should now wear face coverings whilst on dedicated school and public transport.
- students are asked to sit with peers from their own school and their own school year group.

PE KIT and EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

As you are aware, on days when students have PE they must come into school in their PE kit which they will remain in all day to avoid use of the Changing Rooms. **In the event that students do not have the correct or clean PE kit, they should attend school in their regular uniform instead. Alternative leisurewear will not be accepted; students will be directed to the Late Door and we will ask you to bring their regular uniform into school so they can change.** Students are expected have the school quarter zip top as part of their PE kit. If they do not, then they will need to wear their blazer over the top of their PE t-shirt. They should not be wearing 'other' tops (tracksuits, hoodies etc). The only jogging bottoms allowed are the navy blue tracksuit bottoms (with the school badge). All school PE kit is Joma. A reminder of our full PE kit is available on the school website.

After half term we will be offering extracurricular PE clubs to specific year group bubbles on particular days, with a range of sports available to each year group:

- clubs will run from 3:15pm to 4:30pm
- attendees will be required to wear full PE kit on that day.
- students do not need to book in prior to attending the club,
- they will need to come to the sports hall and sign in/register with the lead teacher for the activity,
- the clubs are free of charge for any SuAS student

| Monday Year 7 | Tuesday Year 9 | Wednesday Year 7 | Thursday Year 10 | Friday Year 8 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Netball – Courts | Netball – Courts | Cricket Sports Hall | Netball – Courts | Netball – Courts |
| Football - Astroturf | Football - Astroturf | | Football - Astroturf | Football - Astroturf |
| Badminton – Sports Hall | Badminton – Sports Hall | | Badminton – Sports Hall | Badminton – Sports Hall |
| Hockey - Astroturf | Trampolining – Sports Hall | | Hockey - Astroturf | Trampolining – Sports Hall |

Finally, I hope that your family has an enjoyable half term break. If we continue to work closely together then your daughter/son is likely to have a safe, happy and successful academic year. Please follow us on twitter [@StratUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StratUponAvonSch) or check the school website www.stratforduponavonschool.com for regular updates. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support. I have never felt prouder to be Headteacher of this school.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher**