

15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We've had a successful six weeks back at school and there is a lovely atmosphere throughout the building. It is great to see increasing signs of normality, with extracurricular activities including lunchtime clubs now up and running, and being able to welcome parents to our recent Open Evening and Year 7 & 12 Tutor Evenings.

I am writing regarding several things you need to be aware of.

## 1. **EARLY CLOSURES AND INSET DAYS**

**We will be closing early on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 1.15pm** for staff training and ongoing development of the school curriculum. This is one of five early closures on the following dates:

- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October** (1.15pm finish)
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** (1.15pm finish)
- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January** (1.15pm finish)
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** (1.15pm finish)
- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July** (1.15pm finish)

We also have **3 remaining INSET Days** spread throughout the year when the school will be closed to students. These are:

- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February**
- **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

Please note that due to the additional Platinum Jubilee bank holiday falling in the middle of May half term, Warwickshire County Council have amended the school year by one day. We will therefore be **breaking up on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July**, not Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.

## 2. **COVID UPDATE**

We have a **steady, manageable number of positive Covid cases** at the school. Approximately 2.5% of our students have been absent over recent weeks with a confirmed case. As of today we currently have 44 students absent having tested positive. There are currently 3 classes in the entire school whose parents we have written to in order to advise them to arrange for PCR tests because there are 3 confirmed cases within that teaching group. When students are absent, they should still be able to access their learning in different subjects via Teams. Thanks also to NHS colleagues who this week completed Covid vaccinations for over 700 students who had received parental consent.

May I remind you to ensure that your child **continues to bring a face covering to wear in communal areas** and encourage them to **wash their hands or use sanitiser regularly** throughout the day. Also, students should continue to **self-LFD test** at home **every Wednesday and Sunday**. Clearly the infection rate in the local area remains high and LFT is one of our key lines of defence, so please make sure these are done twice a week. If your child needs replacement kits please send them to their college office or reception where spares are kept.

Some local schools have had to close temporarily or introduce additional precautionary measures like wearing face coverings during lessons. However, those decisions are made on a school-by-school basis in consultation with local public health officials. Rest assured that we will continue to keep a close eye on case numbers locally however, for the moment, what we are doing seems to be working well.

### **3. BROMCOM STUDENT PROTAL**

Please find attached a guide as some students have been experiencing problems with their logins. Due to the way the single sign in is configured, students' old username and password will no longer work – they need to access the site using their school email now . Please read the guidance attached and share with students. If a student experiences any problems with their account not validating, then they need to email [helpdesk@stratfordschool.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@stratfordschool.co.uk) as their Bromcom details are now linked to their school login.

### **4. WEEKLY TEAMS E-MAIL NOTIFICATION**

As you are aware, we are sending **a summative email to parents on Sundays listing the homework that has been set and handed in during the previous week** to help you monitor your child's performance. However, from discussions with some Year 7 parents/carers at the Tutor Evening this week, it has become apparent that many Year 7 parents have not been receiving the weekly message from Microsoft Teams (sent on a Sunday) that summarises homework assignments set and completed each week. All of our systems suggested that this was functioning correctly so it was a surprise to discover that they weren't being received. Please accept our apologies that this aspect of our service has been missing. We believe we have now resolved this issue and all parents should now receive this e-mail on Sunday.

### **5. UNIFORM REMINDER**

Please can you ensure that students come to school in the correct uniform and be mindful that:

- Students should **bring a face covering** every day (and a spare).
- Students are **not permitted to wear sweatshirts or hoodies** to school.
- Students are **expected to 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.
- **The school quarter zip top may also double up as a school jumper** when wearing regular uniform if an additional layer is required underneath the blazer.

**Students wearing incorrect uniform will be kept behind for 10mins at the end of the day by Form Tutors.** If you are in any doubt about uniform requirements, full details are on the website under the 'school information' tab.

### **6. JOB VACANCIES**

We are currently recruiting Teaching Assistants, Associate Teachers, Cleaners and Invigilators. Please direct anybody you know who may be interested towards our website [Stratford upon Avon School - Vacancies](#)

In the meantime, we look forward to a positive finish to the half term next week. Please follow us on twitter [@StraUponAvonSch](#) or check the school website [www.stratforduponavonschool.com](http://www.stratforduponavonschool.com) for regular updates.

Yours sincerely



Mr Neil Wallace, Headteacher