

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with important news of last-minute Christmas presents and seasonal messages!

- **DfE ANNOUNCE A STAGGERED START TO TERM**
- **REMOTE ONLINE LEARNING FOR YEAR 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 from Tue 5<sup>th</sup> January**
- **RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR YEAR 11 & 13 STUDENTS - 8.45am on Tue 5<sup>th</sup> January**
- **RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR YEAR 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 – 8.45am on Mon 11<sup>th</sup> January**
- **£12.8 million FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE**
- **HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS**
- **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE**
- **IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER**

### **DfE ANNOUNCE A STAGGERED START TO TERM**

- It is frustrating that the Department for Education notified us last night that secondary schools should reduce the number of students attending for the first full week of January.
- As such, **only students in Year 11 and 13** and those previously identified as being vulnerable children or children of critical workers **will be in school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Students in other year groups are expected to learn remotely.**
- Apparently, **we are going to be expected to set up a regular Covid testing programme** to test staff and the close contacts of staff and students who test positive for the virus. The devil will be in the detail, no doubt.
- Apparently, **testing will not be mandated, parental permission will be required**, and all students will be expected to attend school or colleges from 11<sup>th</sup> January, regardless of whether a test has been undertaken.
- **We have been told to expect some more details next week!** I look forward to seeing what news Santa brings and want to reassure you that **I will update you in the New Year when we know more.**

### **REMOTE ONLINE LEARNING FOR YEAR 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Students have been encouraged to bring their exercise books home today in preparation for working at home during the first week of term.

**Students will be expected to log onto their class Teams and follow their regular daily timetable.** Teachers will either provide live lessons via Teams at the time when they would ordinarily be teaching the class or uploading other work if that is more appropriate. Teachers will be available 'live' during lessons and are contactable via the chat facility of Teams and by email if needed.

If your child has previously been identified as vulnerable or a child of approved key workers, then they are able to attend school and follow their normal timetable.

#### **Stratford upon Avon School**

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#### **Mr N Wallace – Headteacher**

Stratford upon Avon School, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under number 07690776, whose registered office is Stratford upon Avon School, Alcester Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9DH

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Stratford  
Town Trust  
at the heart of our community



## **RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR YEAR 11 & 13 STUDENTS - 8.45am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January (Week B)**

Year 11 & 13 students are expected to return to school as usual and follow their daily timetable.

### GCSE & A LEVEL PPEs

Year 11 and Year 13 students commence their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs or mocks) on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. There are two exam sessions each day, each starting at 9am and 1.30pm. The current school day will be adjusted to minimise disruption to these exams, by swapping Break/Tutor Period round for all year groups to ensure that students are able to have a break following their exams.

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR YEAR 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 – 8.45am on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

### Year 7 & 8 ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM WEEKS

During the PPE fortnight, we will also be running an alternative curriculum experience for students in Years 7-8. This will give them the opportunity for more immersive subject experiences in the specialist teaching rooms they have been unable to access so far this year.

#### **Why?**

To allow Y8 and Y7 students a vital opportunity to have lessons in specialist teaching spaces to broaden their KS3 experience exploring aspects of 'Our World' and help support option choices.

#### **What?**

Y8 and then Y7 normal curriculum (timetabled lessons and form time) will be collapsed and instead students will have half a day or longer experiences in Technologies, Performing Arts, Arts, Sciences, ICT subjects where students have not had access to specialist rooms this term.

#### **When?**

Year 8: Mon 11th Jan-Mon 18th Jan and

Year 7: Tues 19th Jan – Fri 22nd Jan

Further details will be provided in the New Year.

## **£12.8 million FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE**

I am delighted to announce that Warwickshire County Council have this week **approved £12.8million funding for the proposed expansion of the school**. This is in response to the growing reputation and popularity of the school and anticipated future pressure on student places resulting from additional housing gains within the surrounding area. Over the next few years, this would **increase our capacity to approximately 2,050 students**. There are 3 elements to this exciting news:

1. The extension of the school Hall, kitchen and dining facilities by September 2021.
2. The acquisition of the College car park to provide additional space to help facilitate the expansion of the school.
3. Provision of additional teaching spaces for the proposed increased student numbers whilst rationalising the existing accommodation to group specialist teaching spaces together.

We will continue to work with the Local Authority and the architects to progress into detailed design of the teaching accommodation in the New Year and likely timescales involved.

## **HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS**

Staff have recorded a version of 'How the Grinch stole Christmas' which you are welcome to share with your family via this link:



How many staff can your son/daughter recognise and which is their favourite excerpt?

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE**

Our staff choir send you festive greetings:



### **IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER**

In the unlikely event that it does become necessary to close the school due to extreme weather, notices will be placed on our website [www.stratforduponavonschool.com](http://www.stratforduponavonschool.com), sent by Twitter and Groupcall, and a verbal message placed on the switchboard (ring 01789 268051) by 6.45 a.m. at the latest. We also notify Warwickshire County Council, who place lists of all the county school closures on their website.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout this uniquely challenging term. With very best wishes for a 'Merry little Christmas' and a Happy New Year. The future for the school looks like a very exciting one!

Yours sincerely,

Neil Wallace  
Headteacher