

14/01/22

Dear Parent / Carer

I am delighted to report that we have had a very positive couple of weeks so far with students working hard in lessons and behaving very well around school. Lunchtime clubs and outdoor extracurricular PE activities have restarted, mock examinations are underway for Year 11 and 13, nasal flu vaccinations were completed yesterday, Year 11 have enjoyed a performance of Christmas Carol by The Quantum Theatre Company and we have had an online Year 8 Parents' Evening. Next week will see Year 9 and 10 Dance students attend a performance of Chicago at the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, whilst our U13 girls football team are playing against a school from Bristol in the last 32 of the English Schools Cup.

1. **CHANGES TO THE SELF-ISOLATION PERIOD FOR THOSE WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

Please note that following change to government policy: from Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have **the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature.** For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

2. **ONGOING PRECAUTIONS**

Pleasingly, Covid has proved manageable so far and we have had fewer people having tested positive than last week; currently 32 students and 2 members of staff are absent as a result. Nevertheless, we all need to remain vigilant over the coming weeks. The reason the situation at school has been manageable is because people have been doing the right thing. It is not because we are lucky or Covid has gone away, it is because people are wearing face coverings and LFD testing regularly. To help minimise disruption we need that to continue. As such, may I remind you:

- **Please send your child to school with 2 face coverings every day so that they carry a spare** (unless they are exempt).
- Please reiterate that we expect them to be **worn properly**, i.e. covering nose and mouth, all day long in the school building, including **during lessons and in communal areas**.
- Please encourage your child to use hand sanitiser or wash hands regularly throughout the day
- **Students should continue to undertake lateral flow tests twice weekly on Wednesday and Sunday, reporting the results** to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and the school via this link:
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9MvSNrRjQEC2wd0f6DHTVWCKBeQnxE5LtN6oBJIcosFUMkhESzRWUEJEV01PUDk3WUZOWFZFUIhJRSQIQCN0PWcu>
- Please also report a positive result via the school email covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk.

3. IF STUDENTS MISSED THEIR NASAL FLU VACCINATION

Any students who have not received their nasal flu vaccination due to absence, refusal or if you were unable to access the portal to consent, please use the link below to book into a community clinic. Appointments can be booked via the Swiftqueue link .

<https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/userlogin.php>

4. ATTENDANCE MATTERS

May I reiterate my **appeal for parents to take a more proactive approach towards school attendance in 2022**. Students should be in school unless they are symptomatic or self-isolating.

Keeping schools open is a national priority for good reasons, both for the personal and academic development of young people. Ultimately, **students absent from school won't learn as effectively**. In essence, it is a case of 'Absent today; repent in future' as students are more likely to underachieve in public examinations. Perhaps understandably, the last 18 months has seen lots of people erring on the side of caution. However, this has resulted in **too many 'duvet days' and hundreds of students taking additional time off school** and now falling into the 'at risk of persistent absence' category (below 93%). We are all in the process of finding ways to live with the threat of Covid whilst still being able to function effectively. Please send your child into school so long as they keep reporting negative LFD test results.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. Please follow us on twitter [@StraUponAvonSch](#) for brief, regular updates.

Yours faithfully



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher