

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been lovely seeing so many people in school over the last few days. I am writing with some reminders and additional information regarding the start of term next week.

1. **COVID PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES**

Thank you for your support with the Covid testing. **We have undertaken 1135 Covid tests and had 7 positive results so far over the last couple of days, whilst parents have notified us of 12 students unable to come in because they have tested positive. Clearly the process has been worthwhile if we have prevented a number of asymptomatic students being in school next week.** The Covid rate is likely to increase locally (currently 285 per 100,000) and nationally (currently 355 per 100,000) over the coming weeks as a result of numerous factors, including the bank holiday, sports and music events, the return to school and increased rates of testing. We all need to remain vigilant and adhere to the Covid safety measures in school.

The Government has made it a national priority that schools should continue to operate as normally as possible to maximise the number of children and young people in face-to face education and minimise any disruption, in a way that best manages the COVID-19 risk. The key message is that we need to learn to live with Covid & reduce ongoing educational disruption. However, having worked hard to establish a safe culture over the last 18 months, we are continuing to take additional precautionary measures. These include:

- 2 Covid tests undertaken before the start of term
- Staff and students taking LFD tests twice weekly at home this month (this is due to be reviewed by the government at the end of September)
- Using hand sanitiser when entering the building and classrooms
- **Wearing face coverings in communal areas** (optional in classrooms). **Please ensure that your child brings a couple of face coverings to school everyday.**
- Limiting numbers in staff workrooms
- Using Teams meetings where possible
- Having a 2 metre teacher zone in classrooms
- Seating plans to help identify close contacts with desks in rows and students facing the front
- Enhanced cleaning regimes throughout the day
- Facilitating increased ventilation wherever possible

We will keep a watching brief and are awaiting further information from the government following speculation in the media about the likelihood of student vaccinations and additional measures that may improve ventilation.

However, as you are aware, the rules on isolation of close contacts have now changed. Essentially this means that most of the close contacts who would have been required to self-isolate last term will no longer have to do so if a similar situation arises. Instead, those who test positive on an LFD should isolate, take a confirmatory PCR test, and continue to isolate if the result is positive. Under-18s,

irrespective of their vaccination status, and double vaccinated adults will not need to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a positive case. They will be strongly advised to take a PCR test and, if positive, will need to isolate.

Clearly whatever happens in school should not be considered in isolation, but as part of the broader picture within our local community. Our priority is to ensure that we have a safe working environment for students and staff and reduce possible transmission within the local area. We expect, and thank you in anticipation of, your continued support for our safety measures.

Please report any positive Covid results via the school email covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk

2. START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

- **Online learning commences for Year 8-13 from Monday 6th September at 8:50am.** This will operate on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th all day, and Wednesday 8th from Period 3 onwards. However, there will be no online tutor period at the end of the day, so learning will finish at 2:50.
- Students should only miss a few hours of this whilst coming in for their second Covid test.
- Otherwise, they will learn via Teams, following their individual timetables which they will have received during their COVID test appointment the previous week. If your child did not attend, then they can access their timetable via their Bromcom VLE or parents can access it via My Child at School (MCAS).
- If a student has any problems with their password, they should email helpdesk@stratfordschool.co.uk. They are also able to message their subject teacher during the scheduled lesson via Teams.
- There will be no initial online learning for Year 7 students, whose academic year effectively starts on Wednesday 8th September.
- **Wednesday 8th September becomes in-person induction for Year 7 & 12 only.**
- **Thursday 9th September becomes the in-person start of term for the whole school.**
- Students will be allowed into the building from 8:30am daily and are expected to be on site by 8:45am. Timings of the school day are as follows:

8:45- 8:50	Move to P1
8:50 – 9:50	Period 1
9:50 – 10:50	Period 2
10:50 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:15	Period 3
12:15 – 1:15	Period 4
1:15 – 1:50	Lunch
1:50 – 2:50	Period 5
2:50 – 3:10	Register & Form

- Unfortunately, the building work is approximately 5 weeks behind schedule so we will begin the year using the existing Kitchen and Hall facilities. To ease congestion for the first 2 weeks, Year 7 will be escorted down by class teachers 10 mins early for Break & Lunch (finish P2 at 10:40 & P4 at 1:05) and Year 8 will to be escorted down by class teachers 5 mins early for Break & Lunch (finish P2 at 10:45 & P4 at 1:10).

3. TRANSPORT TO AND FROM SCHOOL

- Please note that students are still expected to wear a face covering on public transport and dedicated school transport.
- **Dropping and collecting at a convenient point en route to school rather than driving into the car park** would also be very much appreciated to ease traffic congestion in the car park. **We**

have a 'left turn only' policy for vehicles when exiting the car park onto Alcester Road in order to speed up the traffic flow.

4. **LESSON GRADES**

Issuing 'Attitude to Learning' grades every lesson has helped motivate students and improve home-school communication by ensuring that parents are aware on a daily basis of excellent or poor performance during lessons. This year, we are **redefining our expectations** with greater differentiation between an Excellent or Good lesson, as opposed to students merely doing sufficient work. **As such, two positives will now be issued for Grade 1 ('Excellent lesson') and one positive for a Grade 2 ('Good' lesson), but the default will become a '3' representing 'sufficient work'.** You will continue to receive a daily automated message whenever a student has a lesson that exceeds or falls short of our expectations. However, **a 4 will now be issued for insufficient effort/work and a 5 for disruptive behaviour. Students who receive a grade 4 or 5 during a lesson will automatically be kept behind for 10 minutes by their form tutor.** This should reinforce the importance of working hard and completing work in lessons by providing a same-day response:

Mark	Description	Outcome
1	Excellent Lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly proactive approach to work Student is polite, well behaved and helps to produce a positive learning environment Student is fully engaged in lesson, notably exceeding core expectations 	Logged as a positive – 'Excellent Lesson' (2 points)
2	Good Lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive approach to work Student is polite and well behaved Student uses time productively within the lesson to exceed core expectations 	Logged as a positive – 'Good Lesson'
3	Sufficient work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student meets core expectations of work and attitude to learning with limited prompting or reminding. Work is sufficient to achieve core objectives to an acceptable target level standard. 	Nothing
4	Insufficient work in lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient engagement with/attitude towards the lesson – needs multiple reminders to complete work set Work below expected quantity and/or quality This may include long periods of limited engagement then a rushed completion at end of lesson 	Logged as a negative 10 minute stay behind at end of tutor time
5	Poor behaviour in lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student's behaviour impacts the learning of self and/or others Student demonstrates a lack of respect to others (staff or student) Repeated reminders and earlier warnings not acted on by student 	Logged as a negative 10 minute stay behind at end of tutor time

As well as these regular electronic communications, please log onto **My Child at School** and **check/sign the student planner weekly** to ensure you are aware of other key information. You will receive a weekly email outlining details of homework that has been set via Teams.

I would ask you to build a relationship with your child's tutor as the first point of contact, though individual teaching staff may be contacted directly by their initialsurname@stratfordschool.co.uk e.g. nwallace@stratfordschool.co.uk.

5. **UNIFORM:**

We expect students to be proud of their school and dress accordingly in school uniform. If you are in any doubt about uniform requirements, full details are on the website under the 'school information' tab. Please note that:

- **names should be clearly marked on all garments.**
- On days when students have **PE or Dance they must come into school in their PE kit** which they will remain in all day. Please note that students are **not permitted to wear sweatshirts or hoodies**; 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.
- plain black footwear is required and that school **skirts must be a modest length**
- Students in **Years 10-11 will wear the block tie** in their College colours which are available from the Uniform Shop in Alcester. Students in **Years 7-9 will wear the striped tie** in their College colours. **Former Globe students in Year 8 or 9 should attend wearing their Globe tie and it will be swapped during the day.**
- **Facial piercings and false nails are not permitted.**
- Students should **bring a full drink bottle.**
- They must also bring tissues to catch any coughs and sneezes.

In the meantime, we look forward to working closely together to ensure that your child has a safe, happy and successful academic year. Please follow us on twitter [@StrUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StrUponAvonSch) or check the school website www.stratforduponavonschool.com for regular updates. Thank you for your ongoing support,

Yours sincerely



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher