

8th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term, I am writing with several updates and key messages about:

1. **LAST DAY OF TERM**
2. **COVID UPDATE**
3. **START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS**
4. **GCSE & A LEVEL PPEs**
5. **UNIFORM**
6. **IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER**

1. LAST DAY OF TERM

The last day of term will be **non-uniform day and early finish on Friday 17TH December at 1.15pm** for all students. Students should bring a **£1 donation** for the **Shakespeare Hospice**. Free School Meal monies will be available to students at Break. Food will be available at 1.15pm for those who require it. Buses will run at the normal time so please make alternative arrangements if necessary.

2. COVID UPDATE

Nationally there is concern about the impact of the new Omicron variant and we all need to remain vigilant over the coming weeks. 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, in communal areas.**
- **Please encourage your child to use hand sanitiser or wash hands regularly** throughout the day as well.
- **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=9MvSNrRjOEC2wd0f6DHTVWCKBeQnxE5LtN6oBJlcosFUMkhESzRWUEJEV01PUDk3WUZOWFZFUIhJRSQIQCN0PWcu>

Please also report a positive result via the school email covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk. If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should book a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible.

Please note the following information we have received from the Department for Education:

Stratford upon Avon School

Alcester Road, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9DH
www.stratforduponavonschool.com Email: staff@stratfordschool.co.uk Tel: 01789 268051

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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What are the Government's Covid testing plans for schools and colleges over the Christmas Holiday?

Staff and students who are not attending their setting during the holiday period may wish to take a rapid lateral flow test in situations where they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. This includes spending time in crowded and enclosed spaces, or before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they catch COVID-19.

What are the Government's testing plans for schools and colleges on return in January?

Secondary school pupils should undertake one test on-site at the start of term in their school symptomatic test site (ATS) followed by one LFD self-test at home 3-4 days after their on-site test. They should then continue to test in line with government guidelines.

Why do secondary school pupils need to test onsite when they return after Christmas?

Testing onsite on return is an effective way to reduce the risk of transmission in schools and support the continuation of face-to-face education, by identifying positive cases and isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as is practical. At the same time, we recognise that testing on site is an additional ask of schools. To minimise educational disruption, we are asking schools to plan to deliver one test onsite in the first week of term.

In essence, students should:

- take an LFD test at home on Sunday 2nd January.
- Come into school for a Covid tests on Wednesday 5th January
- LFD test at home on Sunday 9th January
- then continue to test at home twice weekly, i.e. on Wednesday & Sunday evenings

3. START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

- Staff will be in school on Tuesday 4th for a training day.
- **Students will be expected to come into school for a Covid test on site on Wednesday 5th January**, in line with government guidance. Timings TBC.
- In the event that your child is unable to come into school for the Covid test, please ensure they undertake a LFD test at home and report the results in the usual way (see previous page).
- **Students will be required to work from home on Wednesday 5th January** following their **live Week A timetable via Teams**. Students should only miss a short time whilst coming in for their Covid test. Otherwise, they will be expected to attend online lessons during the day.
- **All students are expected to be in school by 8.45am on Thursday 6th January 2022, the in-person start of term for the whole school (Week A timetable).**

4. GCSE & A LEVEL PPEs

Year 11 and Year 13 students commence their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs or mocks) on Monday 10th January 2022. There are two exam sessions each day, starting at 9am and 11.15am. Students are expected to line up 15mins prior to the start time to avoid delays and exams running into break times.

5. UNIFORM:

Given the pandemic and need to open windows, we have permitted students to wear a sweatshirt or hoodie (without logos) as an additional layer. However, please note that **these are as an additional layer, i.e. regular compulsory uniform still applies. They should not be worn instead of a blazer or PE quarter zip top.** 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 ensure that **names are clearly marked on all garments**.

6. 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, 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.

Finally, I am delighted to have been asked to write a monthly educational column in The Stratford Herald. My first article will be published next week on Thursday 16th December. I hope some of you enjoy reading it.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. With very best wishes for a very healthy and happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Wallace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Neil Wallace

Headteacher