

30/09/20

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 12 students

Unfortunately, I am writing to inform you that **Year 12 students should self-isolate and work from home with immediate effect. This applies until returning to school on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

The reason for this action is that we have now had **three positive tests within the same 'close contact' group of the Year 12 cohort**, whilst other students in the year group are currently symptomatic and off school awaiting test results. Sending the bubble home is a precautionary measure as we are awaiting the outcome of further tests. However, you can appreciate that the number of positive tests makes it extremely difficult to effectively contact trace individuals within the year group. This precautionary measure is designed to limit transmission across year groups and so protect the school as a whole.

**The reason that bubbles were created was to reduce the risk of having to close the school.** We have a system of controls in place that people need to adhere to. These will reduce the risk of transmission within school. These mitigating measures include using hand sanitiser, wearing face coverings in communal areas, bubbles etc... We are mindful that individuals – students and parents – will have different emotions and views, but want to reassure you that we are acting in good faith. **This action is designed to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission within the Year 12 bubble, the wider school or the local community.**

**Year 12 students will thus effectively study at home for the next 9½ working days and follow their regular daily timetable accordingly.** This precautionary measure also enables us to maintain effective educational provision for the entire cohort as teachers can now focus exclusively on delivering live lessons via Teams. Students will be expected to log onto their class Teams and follow their regular daily timetable. Teachers will provide live lessons via Teams at the time when they would ordinarily be teaching Year 12. Students should follow their regular routine, but contact teachers via the chat facility of Teams and by email if needed.

**Students will be required to stay at home during this period.** This means they must not leave their home and they should:

- not go to school or public places
- not go on public transport or use taxis
- not go out to get food and medicine
- not have visitors in their home
- not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if they have one

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## Stratford upon Avon School

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### Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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Town Trust  
at the heart of our community



**These restrictions do not apply to other family members in the household. Siblings are still expected to attend school as usual**, unless they, or anyone in your household, exhibit any Covid symptoms.

**This is unlikely to be the last time we have to send home a year group bubble over the coming months.** It is a difficult balancing act, but we will continue to act in a proportionate, precautionary professional manner, in line with government guidance and advice from the local health protection team.

May I remind you about the national NHS guidance for testing and self-isolation:

We all need to remain vigilant by watching out for symptoms of coronavirus. The symptoms are:

- a new continuous cough
- and/or high temperature
- and a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell

If you or your child shows these symptoms:

- self-isolate with your household
- book a test immediately

Let the school know as soon as possible.

The government are launching a new 'Hands, Face, Space' campaign as winter approaches to remind everyone of the fundamental priorities:



- wash your hands regularly
- use a face covering when social distancing is not possible
- try to keep your distance from those not in your household

We will continue to update **key information regarding Covid-19 on our website.**

May I also remind you that **in the event that your family has a positive Covid-19 test, please notify us immediately via [Covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk](mailto:Covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk).** This will enable us to respond promptly.

This is not a decision that we have taken lightly. **I will keep you informed if the situation changes. In the meantime, please ensure that Year 12 students stay at home until Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.** Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Neil Wallace**  
**Headteacher**