

Dear Parent / Carer

We have had a very enjoyable and successful half term to date. I am writing today regarding the Government's new living with Covid guidance and other school news.

1. **NEW COVID GUIDANCE**

From the 1st April, the Government have issued new guidance with regard to the [next steps for living with COVID-19](#). With this guidance the Government are essentially asking the population to treat the virus as any other respiratory infection such as a cold or flu. If you feel unwell or believe you have Covid-19 you should follow this advice;

- *children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend*
- *Students with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days,*
- *adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature*
- *adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious.*

Tests are no longer be available free of charge unless you are NHS staff or in specific identified groups. Asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in education settings and the school is no longer able to distribute test kits. Indeed, most of the specific COVID-19 guidance for education and childcare settings has now been withdrawn by the government.

From Monday 4th April, the wearing of face coverings in school will be optional. However, the pandemic is not over and how the virus will develop over time remains uncertain. COVID still poses a real risk to many of us, particularly with case rates and hospitalisations on the rise. Covid numbers have remained low over recent weeks and today we have 24 students and 3 members of staff absent having tested positive. Please continue to send your child into school with a face covering and encourage them to wear it as it remains sensible to wear a mask in enclosed spaces, keep indoor spaces ventilated and stay away from others if you have any symptoms of a respiratory illness.

2. **GENDER EQUALITY**

As part of Women's History Month, we have been focusing on challenging gender stereotyping, promoting girls and women into STEM subjects and careers as well as educating students on the types of language they should use. This week has seen a range of school-wide activities to raise awareness

around gender equality including SPHERE lessons for years 8-10, gender equality assemblies and tutor activities.

We believe equality issues are core to our values as a comprehensive school and our commitment to learn about, understand and respect difference. A simple way of looking at this is about being kind to ourselves and to others, thinking about the language we use and the actions we take when interacting with the world around us. We expect everyone in our school community to be kind, tolerant and respectful of others and most importantly challenge those who are not. We hope you will join us in promoting this ethos and if you would like to find out more about what the school is doing to advance these issues please take a look at our Equalities page on the school website - [Stratford upon Avon School - Equalities](#)

3. CULTURAL FESTIVAL

On Tuesday and Wednesday our Student President Team, along with the help of 50+ student volunteers, will be running a cultural celebration in school. The Presidents wanted to celebrate the many different cultures represented by our student body and they invited the younger students to participate by running an information stand about the cultures with which they associate. More than 300 students responded to the Presidents' survey of and more than 50 students offered to participate in the event. Our canteen will be joining in with food from Italy, Morocco, Thailand and Korea across the week. We are looking forward to learning more about the different cultures represented within our school.

4. FUND RAISING

Thank you for your support with recent fundraising activities. We raised £5000 for the Disaster Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Last week we raised an additional £1404 with our 'Wear a Hat Day' for brain tumour research in memory of Callum Haden who sadly passed away last March in Year 11. This means that we have now raised £3000 for this worthwhile cause, enough money to have a plaque in his memory at one of the specialist brain tumour hospitals.

5. OTHER NEWS

It has been a busy few weeks with students enjoying a wide range of activities. Highlights have included:

- A myriad of football, basketball, netball, hockey, rugby and cross country fixtures
- Y10 Geography trip to Birmingham
- A Level Photography Banksy walking tour in Bristol
- Y7&8 Warwickshire Book Awards trip
- Y12 Young Enterprise students selling their products in Leamington Spa
- Y10 Drama trip to see The Curious Incident of the Dog
- Science Week activities
- Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition
- Year 7,8 & 11 Parents Evenings
- Year 12 transition exams and the start of some practical GCSE exams
- Congratulations to Lavinia Serban who, as well as regularly volunteering to coach volleyball in lower school PE lessons, has been selected for Great Britain's U18 volleyball team
- Congratulations to Madame Dalleau White and Monsieur Baudry (from our partner school Collège privé Lacordaire in Lille), who were honoured to be guests of Dame Meena Rawlings, the new British Ambassador at our Embassy in Paris, as part of the launch of 'Great', the new scheme to celebrate Franco-British friendship.

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher