

24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Start of Term update**

We have had a really productive start to the new school year with students fresh from the summer break really engaging with lessons in a very positive way. We have also been emphasising to students the importance of getting the basics right, which means aiming for 100% attendance, arriving each day by 8.35am, being fully equipped, working hard and following instructions from adults.

### **Covid Update**

As there are still some cases of Covid in the community please remind your children to remember to maintain good hand hygiene, spacing when possible and that they can wear a mask in school if they choose to. They should also be completing two lateral flow tests each week.

If a student does develop any of the three main symptoms of a temperature, continuous cough or loss of smell or taste, you should keep them at home and [book a PCR test](#). However, please remember that close contacts under the age of 18 no longer need to self-isolate, so siblings can still attend school.

As I'm sure you know the government has now approved vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds. Schools have been asked to provide the venue for these vaccinations, but they will be administered by the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) who deal with all vaccinations for school-age students. You can read more about this at [Covid-19 Vaccination Programme for Children and Young People](#). We have not yet been contacted by SAIS so we do not know how soon this will happen.

### **Open evening 4<sup>th</sup> October – early finish**

We have our Open Evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Considerable preparation is required for the evening and therefore school will finish slightly early that day at 2pm for Years 7-10. Work for period 5 will be provided for students via [Microsoft Teams](#). Year 11 will have a full school day and finish at 3pm as normal.

### **New catering provider**

Our new catering provider, *Innovate*, have been providing students with healthy, nutritious meals since returning to school and the feedback from students has been fantastic. We now have several options of food at both breaks and lunches, including the main meal counter (at which meals are £2.20 and include a drink or dessert), our grill on which our chefs cook food from around the world in front of the students and serve in a 'grab and go' manner, and our hot deli section. Items

that are not within the main meal deal are charged individually. Please take a look at our [Lunch Menu](#) webpage to see our menus and the variety of food that is offered.

Additionally, *Innovate* are running a breakfast club where students can attend from 8:00am each morning and pay £1.00 for a variety of items for breakfast (it is free for students who receive free school meals). This is a great opportunity for students to read, complete some schoolwork and socialise with their friends. Innovate will also be providing water bottles so that students can stay hydrated, they just need to remember to refill them at break or lunchtimes.

### **Rewards**

From Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September, a brand-new rewards system will be introduced into the way we do things at Stratford School Academy. The aim of our rewards system is to ensure we are fairly and consistently acknowledging the students who consistently meet and exceed our expectations by demonstrating our school values of Respect, Excellence and Responsibility. Students' actions will be acknowledged with achievement points when working in and out of lessons, and when representing the Academy in the wider community.

At the end of each term, the students with the highest number of achievement points will be rewarded in our celebration assemblies. Those in the top 5% of students throughout the school will be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a range of prizes including gift cards. If your child wins a gift card, we will communicate this with you before delivering it to them to ensure you can celebrate their achievement together when they arrive home.

To ensure we strive to acknowledge the actions of our students in the wider community, please contact your child's registration tutor with any news, events or activities completed outside of the school day. All staff at Stratford School Academy are excited to embed the rewards system and we look forward to many positive conversations and rewarding our first group of students at the end of term.

### **Curriculum maps in exercise books**

Every student should now have a 'curriculum map' stuck into the front of their exercise books for each subject. This gives you and them an overview of what they are studying this year, how they will be assessed and what you can do to help them consolidate and extend their learning. We will be adding more subject information on individual subject pages which will be added to our new website very soon.

### **Upcoming school events**

11<sup>th</sup> October - Introduction to Key Stage 4 Evening (Year 10 parents) GR

12<sup>th</sup> October- Introduction to Key Stage 4 Evening (Year 10 parents) UL

25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> October half term

11<sup>th</sup> November Post 16 Progression Fair

7<sup>th</sup> December Year 11 Parents' Evening

14<sup>th</sup> December Winter Music Concert

17<sup>th</sup> December last day of term (non-uniform)

### **Staggered lunch queuing**

Lots of students have let us know the lunchtime queuing system is not working efficiently. Too many students have been standing in the line for too long because they choose to queue from the

beginning of lunch. Therefore, we have introduced a staggered queuing system, students can only begin to queue at the following times.

Early Lunch		Late Lunch	
Year 11	12.20pm	Wave 3	13.20pm
Year 7	12.30pm	Year 10	13.20pm
Year 9	12.40pm	Year 8	13.30pm

## Reading

Your child's ability to read widely and often is one of the most important determining factors of how happy, healthy, and wealthy they will be in their lives. Reading regularly can improve your child's knowledge, communication, and memory as well as help with focus and concentration. To encourage your child to read, we insist that they must bring a reading book in their bag every day and recommend that they read for at least 30 minutes a day. Students can visit our school library before the start of the school day to change or collect their reading book.

## What can parents do to support their children with their reading?

- Remind your child to carry a reading book in their bag every day.
- Take an interest in what your child is reading. Ask them about the plot, characters etc.
- Encourage your child to take a digital break (especially before they sleep) and read a book.
- Act as a role model- visit the library together and both choose a book.
- Discuss the benefits of reading with your child

As always, my thanks for your continuing support of the school.

Yours sincerely



Craig Hewitt  
Headteacher