

26th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Start of the new school year

We hope you and your families have enjoyed the summer. We were delighted to celebrate another strong set of GCSE results with our Year 11s, 80% of students gained a pass (4+) in both English and Maths and over 50% gained strong passes (5+) in both subjects. You can see more details on our new website. Below are some reminders for the new term.

Removal of Covid restrictions

The government's latest guidance for schools states:

'Step 4 marked a new phase in the government's response to the pandemic, moving away from stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk. As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for 2 doses by mid-September.'

In practice this means that whilst continuing to be vigilant in terms of hand hygiene, social distancing when possible, etc. the day-to-day organisation of the school will return to how it was before the pandemic.

Schools are no longer responsible for tracking and tracing cases, so you will need to inform NHS Track and Trace if your child has a positive test (of course you will also need to inform the school of their absence and the reason). Obviously students should be kept at home if they have any Covid symptoms, but even if they do test positive other family members do not need to self-isolate if they are under 18 or have been fully vaccinated.

The school will continue to ensure that a number of measures are in place including ensuring hand sanitiser is available, surfaces are cleaned regularly and the buildings are well ventilated. Government advice is that masks are not recommended, however we will still allow plain face coverings to be worn by students who wish to do so.

All students with consent will have two lateral flow tests in the first week of the new term. We would encourage all families to continue to do two tests per week for the foreseeable future, the school will continue to provide test kits.

Year 7 Lateral Flow Consent Form

Parents/Carers of new students joining us this term have been sent an online [Year 7 Lateral Flow Consent Form](#) via ParentMail text message.

We advise all parents/carers to complete the [Year 7 Lateral Flow Consent Form](#) by Tuesday 31st August 2021.

Start of New Term

The new school year will start again on **Wednesday 1st September**, with year groups starting at the following times:

Year Group	Start Time
Year 7	10.15am
Year 8	13.00pm
Year 9	13.00pm
Year 10	12.45pm
Year 11	12.45pm

Uniform Expectations

You can find detailed guidance on uniform via our website (including photographs of which types of shoes are appropriate): www.stratfordschoolacademy.com/uniform

Some key points to consider when buying uniform for your child are:

- Coats must be plain back. Hoodies are not acceptable.
- Shoes should be black leather school shoes. Trainers are not acceptable. Please look at the pictures on our website for guidance and contact the school if you are unsure about which shoes to buy.

Equipment

Again, there is a comprehensive list of what students need to bring to school each day on our website: www.stratfordschoolacademy.com/86/expectations. Ensuring your child has an appropriate bag for their equipment is vital, students should also always carry a reading book with them.

Behaviour Expectations

We will recap our key expectations around behaviour with students at the start of the year. It would be helpful if parents and carers could revisit the home-school agreement and reiterate the importance of good behaviour to maintain a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning.

Key reminders are that:

- Chewing gum is not allowed in school

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- Headphones are not allowed in school
- Mobile phones are only allowed to be used in the Purple Zone and outside and only during social times

New School Website

Our new school website launched this week. The web address remains the same, but the functionality and formatting is much improved. One key enhancement is the provision of a translate function. If you haven't already done so, please do take a look:

www.stratfordschoolacademy.com

We are always looking to improve our communications, if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the new school website please email Ms Haynes, Media and Communications Officer at z.haynes@stratfordschoolacademy.org.

Finally

We are very excited about welcoming all of our students back to school next week and look forward to seeing them refreshed, equipped and ready to learn.

Best wishes,



Craig Hewitt
Headteacher