



15th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last few weeks at school have been highly disruptive due to a sharp rise in coronavirus cases, higher than we have experienced at any other time in the pandemic. This has led to school leaders spending most of their time tracing close contacts and, more importantly, has created disruption, anxiety and inconvenience for families. In addition, we are experiencing a higher than normal rate of staff absence due to positive cases, but also due to NHS test and trace.

The picture is currently getting worse: in the last two weeks we have seen outbreaks of the virus in multiple year groups getting high into double figures. We also have a significant list of potential cases that we are constantly monitoring to see if they require further action.

Although we are very proud of our online provision and ability to adapt to partial pod closures quickly, having all students in school or having all students working remotely creates a better learning environment than a hybrid system.

Following this rapid rise in cases that shows no signs of slowing down and after listening to our parents' and students' concerns about isolating into the holidays and children being poorly, as well as the disadvantages of hybrid learning outlined above, we have taken the difficult but sensible decision to move to online learning for all students on Monday 19th July until school ends at 12.30pm on Thursday 22nd July. This will enable us to focus on teaching rather than tracing, set our families' minds at ease, prioritise the health and wellbeing of students and staff, and plan for a consistent provision that achieves the most success in these fraught times.

As this will apply to all students, we are also able to move to an improved timetable for learning during this last week, which allows students a longer lunch break to come away from their screens and eat with siblings where relevant. These timings will be:

**Tutor time:** 8.50am - 9.20am

**Period 1:** 9.20am - 10.20am

**Period 2:** 10.20am - 11:20am

*Break*

**Period 3:** 11:40.am - 12.40pm

*Lunch*

**Period 4:** 1:25pm - 2:25pm

**Period 5:** 2:25pm - 3:25pm

Please encourage your child to note the timings of the day on a post-it next to their computer so that they don't forget or miss the start of the lesson. Students must ensure they are signed into all taught periods and not out in the community during lesson times.





We will monitor attendance closely and be in touch to offer support if your son/daughter does not log in to lessons.

During the pandemic, it has been a challenge to make decisions that everyone agrees with as there is such a range of options available, coupled with vague guidance. However, I hope the rationale for this is clear and that you support the decision in the best interests of everyone concerned.

If you have any problems accessing online learning or are concerned about your child learning at home alone, please get in touch with your Head of Year before the end of Friday and they will be happy to help.

Y7: Mrs Metcalfe [s.metcalfe@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:s.metcalfe@stokesleyschool.org)

Y8: Mrs Bailey [j.bailey@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:j.bailey@stokesleyschool.org)

Y9: Mrs Brosnan [d.brosnan@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:d.brosnan@stokesleyschool.org)

Y10: Mr Wilson [n.wilson@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:n.wilson@stokesleyschool.org)

Y12: Mr McGreal (Assistant Headteacher) [r.mcgreal@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:r.mcgreal@stokesleyschool.org)

For specific questions regarding students with special educational needs, please contact our SENDCo, Assistant Headteacher, Mrs McGreal [sen@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:sen@stokesleyschool.org).

Y10s who still have assessments to complete will be contacted separately to attend school and finish these off, please look out for an important message from Mrs Darbyshire later today and respond as quickly as you can so we can organise transport where necessary with the Local Authority.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett  
Headteacher

