

Monday 12th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

There have been a significant number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 across your child's year group. In light of this, and having liaised with Public Health Luton, we have made the difficult decision to close the year group down to prevent the further spread of the virus. This decision has not been taken lightly, and is a direct result of tracking and tracing interactions that the positive cases have had across the year group. Due to the high number of cases, we are advising all students who have access to lateral flow tests to complete these and would urge all families to undergo PCR tests if anyone in the household is displaying any symptoms. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we will continue to support both your child's education and their well-being whilst they are self isolating. Your child will be required to stay at home and self-isolate up to and including **Tuesday 20th July**.

From Tuesday 13th July, your child will continue to follow their normal school timetable and will be taught "live" lessons by their teachers. Links to the live lessons will be communicated through Satchel One. Where there are computer or internet issues we will work with you to provide alternatives. Please make contact with your child's allocated pastoral team if this is the case for you using the email addresses below:

- pallen@stopasleyhighschool.co.uk
- mscarisbrick@stopasleyhighschool.co.uk

If a member of staff is unavailable to deliver a live lesson, details of what your child should do will be communicated through Satchel One.

Remember if your child is having any difficulties with accessing the lessons you can:

- access the Student Survival guide on the website under the Information tab, which has all the links they will need to the different learning platforms
- send a message directly to the class teacher on Satchel One, (Show My Homework)
- request a replacement password by emailing: studentitsupport@stopasleyhighschool.co.uk

If you or your child needs to speak to someone at the school, unrelated to their lessons, they can email the pastoral team who will be more than happy to help.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals we will arrange for vouchers to be sent out to you by the end of today. If you have not already registered for your free school meal vouchers, please email fsm@stopasleyhighschool.co.uk with your child's name and the email address you would like the vouchers sent to.

Financial support if you have to take time off work to care for your child while they are self-isolating

Parents and Legal Guardians of children who are required to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- You are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- You are employed or self-employed
- You cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- You meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment
- Your child or young person:
 - is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
 - has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

Please check the full eligibility criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme [here](#).

If you believe you are eligible for the payment please visit:

https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Health_and_social_care/coronavirus/Pages/I-need-financial-support.aspx to check and apply.

If you are eligible, you will be required to provide a named letter from your child's school to verify the information you provide about your child, as part of the process of confirming whether you are eligible for a payment.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms arrange for a COVID test. This can be done via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If their test is negative they must still continue to self-isolate for the 10 day period, regardless of the negative test result.

If their test is positive they will need to self-isolate for **10 days** from the date when their symptoms start. All your household members must self-isolate for 10 days.

The date of symptom onset is day zero.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>.

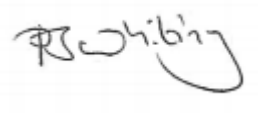
Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Hand', written on a light-colored background.

K Hand
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P Whiting', written on a light-colored background.

P Whiting
Deputy Headteacher