



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Associate Principal



22nd October 2021

Dear Stantonbury families

I hope you are all very well and looking forward to spending the week with your children. Can I please take this opportunity to thank you and your child for your support and positive attitudes towards the school and the changes that have been made as we finish our first half term under the TOVE Learning Trust.

BE HERE

Precautions for Covid 19

As we make a move out of our Year bubbles, we will still be reinforcing our basic Covid guidelines for students and staff.

- All rooms will be well ventilated
- Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitisers on entering buildings
- Every classroom will have anti-bacterial wipes and tissues available
- Toilets and computer rooms will be cleaned more regularly throughout the day
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wear face coverings in busy social areas
- Students will be encouraged at break and lunch times to go outside, weather permitting

Please continue to report any positive cases and ensure all are testing before school on Mondays and Thursdays.

Vaccination letter to parents

From Saturday 23 October, parents and guardians of 12 – 15 year olds will receive a letter to enable them to book their COVID-19 vaccination at local centres via the National Booking System (www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination).

For further information on COVID-19 and the vaccination programme visit: www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19

I have also attached a copy of a letter that the school have received from Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust regarding Flu vaccinations.

Accessing FSM- Free School Vouchers during half-term

Milton Keynes Council have been lucky enough to secure some additional funding for the “MK Covid Holiday Help Scheme!” This means that they can issue supermarket e-vouchers for children eligible for free school meals over the October half term 2021.

As before, you'll have access to Edenred so that you can issue supermarket e-vouchers. The vouchers are £15 per eligible child.

Important: Vouchers should, wherever possible, be issued in the name of the qualifying pupil and distributed by email using the download facility on Edenred. Access to the Milton Keynes Account on Edenred, to request your vouchers during the half term break, please follow this guidance.

The scheme closes on 5th November 2021 and all permissions to the Milton Keynes Council account on Edenred will be withdrawn at 5pm that day.

If you need assistance ordering your vouchers, please contact Edenred on 0800 247 1233.

If you need to reset your password, you can use the following link:-

<https://ordering.edenred.co.uk/Account/ResetPasswordRequest>

Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday

The Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee in 2022 after 70 years on the throne. To mark the occasion, the late May bank holiday will be moved to Thursday 2 June 2022 and an additional Jubilee bank holiday will be on Friday 3 June 2022. This will fall during the May half term closure period so there will be no impact upon working arrangements or the days that we are open to pupils (i.e., will be open for 190 days). However, the Government has laid Regulations (The Education (School Day and School Year) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021) that allow for Schools to be open for pupils for 189 days instead of 190 days in the academic year 2021/2022.

We are choosing to open for 189 days, and we are now able to determine the additional closure day locally in consultation with trade unions, staff, parents and carers and the community. We will need to ensure that we circulate widely the amendment to our published term dates. The date will be confirmed in the next half term.

BE READY

On Monday 1st November when our students return, lesson 1 will be spent in their Year bases with their Form Tutors. It is imperative for me that all our students are given the same clear message to ensure they quickly develop good habits and routines as we move out of our bubbles.

We will share a virtual assembly that will give clarity around our expectations for moving around the school between lessons. I will explain the measures put in place to prevent COVID spreading throughout our community, our Covid contingency plan and the areas they can access during their social times.

Lesson 1 will also be an opportunity to distribute their new timetables and for their Form Tutors to help them plan their daily routes around the site to their lessons. Due to COVID restriction for some of our students this will be the first time they have independently moved around the site. This week our 6th Formers have supported this change and toured our Year 7s to their new classrooms. During the tutor time key messages from this half term around our Do Nows, punctuality and attendance and our rewards and behaviour Policy will be revisited and further embedded.

BE LEARNING

MP visit

On Friday Ben Everitt, MP MK North visited our school for the first time. It was a pleasure showing him around the site visiting lessons and talking to students. Ben Everitt loved meeting the students and seeing how enthusiastic they all were.



Celebration Assemblies

This week during assemblies we have been celebrating the successes of our students and they have been able to trade in their achievement points for prizes in our Rewards shop. I have attached the names of the students recognised for their contributions to our community by their staff.



Careers

Soccer Assist Academy Coaching and Pathways Event

On Tuesday, 19 October, eighteen Year 10 and Year 11, male and female students volunteered to participate in this event. Students had a training session on the school's Astro, working with two coaches from the academy, followed by a workshop detailing the further education offer from the academy. This is just one of many education and training options that Year 10 and 11 will be learning about this year. The academy director, Junior Osei-Tutu said, "The effort and contribution from students was great, we really enjoyed it." Students who participated were invite to trial session(s) over half-term.

The Next Career Event in School

Network Rail are hosting a Tomorrow's Engineer Event all day, in school, on Monday 8th November. This event is to support Year 7, 8 and 9 students who have an interest in mathematics and science, in exploring and making GCSE course choices. If you think someone in your family would like to apply for a place (there is a 60-student limit) please email: karen.malone@stantonbury.org.uk.

Augmented reality app challenges children to explore MK

Please see the details of a free to play smartphone app to encourage children and young people to get active and explore their local area.

The Love Exploring app showcases 18km of specially designed trails in 13 different locations around the borough. Launching just in time for Halloween, the first trails have a spooky theme and use augmented reality technology to bring dancing skeletons and assorted creepy creatures to parks and streets.

Suitable for all ages, the Love Exploring app is packed with local history and little-known facts, and uses interactive maps, guided tours and quizzes to bring landmarks to life.

Users of the app can even create their own trails and we want as many of you to get involved!

Please follow the link below;

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pressreleases/2021/oct/augmented-reality-app-challenges-children-to-explore-mk>

Finally, I want to wish you all a very restful break and hope you all have some time for yourselves, your families and loved ones.

Until Monday 1st November, take care

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ben Wilson

Associate Principal

