



16<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to you for the first time in my new capacity as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Sixth Form and Progression (encompassing careers education). It goes without saying that I would have preferred my initial contact with you all to be under different circumstances, but regardless of the current situation I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work more closely with a broader range of the young adults, alongside their parents and carers, that attend Stokesley School.

To help you navigate the important information within this letter, I have split it into sections so that you can focus on what applies to you in particular.

## Y11

### *GCSE Work*

The announcement from Ofqual before the Easter holiday has meant that we will change our approach for Y11 with more appropriate provision; our headteacher informed you of this at the end of last term. There is now no obligation for students in Year 11 to complete work or begin new assignments in their GCSE classes, as it will have no bearing on the grades teachers will submit to Ofqual. Students will still have the opportunity to contact their teachers for extra support and guidance in their GCSE studies should they wish to, but this is at their own discretion.

### *'A-Level Bridging' Google Classrooms*

We are aware that we have many conscientious students at Stokesley School who would like to begin preparation for their A-Level studies now. We fully support this, and you will be pleased to know that we already have plans in place to ensure that 'A-Level bridging' classes will be set up by the end of the first week back after Easter. Instructions have already been shared with staff as to how to go about this which includes providing reading lists, as well as appropriate and stimulating tasks for students to complete during this transitional period. Students will be able to sign up to the classes they are interested in pursuing into KS5, and they are free to sign up to as many as they wish to, should they still be unsure about their final choices. Google Classroom codes will be emailed to all students in Y11 early next week, as well as being available on the school website. Please note that work assigned via these classrooms will be assessed within the first few weeks of school reopening, so that we can provide support to key students swiftly and effectively.

### *Sixth Form Confirmation Letters*

Another piece of correspondence to look out for in the coming days are confirmation letters to attend Stokesley School Sixth Form for those who have applied. These letters will include an 'options grid' where students confirm their choices. This grid has been put together using the current information we have on students' choices, and it is tailored to accommodate as many students as possible. Please note that students who apply to our sixth form will be expected to sign up to the A-Level bridging classes mentioned earlier. Students applying elsewhere are still welcome to sign up to these classrooms should they desire to.

STOKESLEY SCHOOL, STATION ROAD, STOKESLEY,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE TS9 5AL

[www.stokesleyschool.org](http://www.stokesleyschool.org)

01642 710050





## Stokesley School Sixth Form Performance Measures

There are still a few students who have not confirmed with us their intentions for next year, or are perhaps still undecided, so I wish to take the opportunity to remind you of what our sixth form has to offer. Last year students at Stokesley School Sixth Form made above average progress using government measures, and the average grade attained was a B; no state school or college close by can make a claim to achieving both of those figures. All of these statistics, and more, can be found via the government's [own school-comparison website](#). Combining these traditionally strong outcomes with the transition package outlined above means we believe more strongly than ever that Stokesley School and Sixth Form College is the best next step for our students who wish to follow an academic A-Level route.

## Y12

### Current Study

It could be argued that students in Year 12 are in the most difficult position: their exams should still proceed as normal, but their teaching provision has been affected drastically. It can be incredibly difficult to remain focused and resolute towards your studies at this time, but it is more important than ever that Year 12 students are completing assignments and revising as thoroughly as they can **outside** of what their teachers have allocated them. Students who continue to work diligently and remain in close contact with their teachers have the potential to be at a greater advantage than in previous years when compared to those who attend lessons but are more lethargic in their learning. All A-Level teachers at Stokesley School are here to provide assistance whenever necessary; students must take personal responsibility to access this and keep in touch.

### UCAS and Personal Statements

Year 12 students would have been introduced to the UCAS process after the Easter holiday. Whilst this can no longer be carried out in the manner that we had hoped, there is still plenty we can accomplish together in the weeks ahead. Students should now be formulating a pathway regarding studying or training once they leave the sixth form, and this information will play a key role in how personal statements and references will be written. Plans are in place so that tutors will contact their tutees via Google Classroom with further details, but for now Year 12 students need to be thinking about the following: what do they wish to study/train in once they finish their A-Levels, and what hobbies and/or experiences have they had that have developed the skills and attributes that are necessary to succeed in their choice? Both questions can be trickier to answer than you would think, so you may wish to provide help and guidance yourselves: you know them best, after all. The website [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) has a wealth of information and advice when it comes to planning for students' future; we encourage families to start looking ahead now. Students may also want to begin applying for university open days; many in June are now going to be 'virtual', but those in September/October are still hoping to go ahead. Numbers will be limited so it is worthwhile booking sooner rather than later - your son/daughter can always cancel at a later date. Please note that the current policy is that students are allowed three school days absence to attend such events, provided they have confirmation from myself.

AMBITIOUS. RESPECTFUL. READY.





## Y13

### *Grades*

Teachers and leaders are working incredibly hard to ensure that the grades we send to Ofqual are as accurate and fair as possible. We are understanding of the fact that many of you will be anxious at this time of uncertainty, but we have been told explicitly that no school can share the grading information with their students under any means. Please be aware that the grade that students are awarded this summer will not necessarily be the grade that Stokesley School send to Ofqual, as they also take many things into account beyond our control. One thing they do consider is a centre's past record of achievement, and this should undoubtedly work in our favour as our A-Level results have been consistently strong for several years. Mrs Darbyshire, Deputy Headteacher, will be in touch in a couple of days with more information about our approach to grading.

### *UCAS, Finance and Accommodation*

In terms of UCAS, the deadline by which students must make their firm and insurance choices has been extended to 19th May 2020, should they have received offers by the 31<sup>st</sup> March. If they have still not received any offers, contact either myself or their tutor in the first instance so that we can help with the next steps. Those applying to university courses will need to think of applying for accommodation and student finance. It can take up to six weeks to process student finance applications, so make sure you apply early – even if you have a conditional offer – as you can amend or cancel your application if your plans change. The website <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate> provides helpful information on both areas, and do not hesitate to get in touch should you need any help or advice.

### *Study*

Should Y13 students still wish to study, perhaps as a means of preparation for their chosen university course, staff will always be available for contact to provide work and guidance. Students should not hesitate to get in touch should they need us.

## All Year Groups

Should you have any questions regarding the sixth form or progression please do not hesitate to contact me at [sixthform@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:sixthform@stokesleyschool.org). I look forward to working with you all.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Weedy  
Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form & Progression)

