



Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the ninth weekly update I have written since school closures took effect. This week I wish to share important and interesting information with you regarding: a 'Black Lives Matter' special weekly bulletin; Y9 preparing for GCSE subjects; a brief update on preparations for wider opening; plans for reporting to parents in Y7-9; our latest ambition point tally; uniform sizing information; the finalisation of the school-based processes for awarding grades; and some work our wonderful students are continuing to do during these altered times.

Next week's parent and student bulletin is a little different to those which have been shared up until now, and has been put together to help our students to understand the history behind the 'Black Lives Matter' movement. We see it as our duty as a school to be reactive to events happening in the world around our students, and to provide them with access to reliable sources of information to help them to understand what they see and hear. A massive thanks to Miss Dowson in the history department, who has worked incredibly hard to put all of the resources together as thoughtfully as she has. We hope you and your son/daughter find this useful to promote thinking and discussion.

Y9 students will be looking forward to beginning their GCSEs/externally assessed courses which commence fully in September. With that in mind, subject leaders are busy preparing a booklet which will be shared with the students detailing: useful pre-reading to prepare them for the subject; a few stimulating activities to help them to begin thinking like a historian, or an engineer, or a thespian, and more; and an assessed task that should be handed in before the summer. At the point the booklet is issued, we will no longer set work via the google classroom for every subject, except 'core' subjects of maths, English, science, core PE and RE who may decide to continue using them, and instead students should use this booklet to choose the work to complete from the subjects they plan to study next year. This is a great opportunity to make sure the Y9 students are focusing their efforts in the right place for their longer term future, and that they remain motivated as we reach the end of a long and challenging term. If for some reason you have not received a letter confirming your son/daughter's option choices for next academic year, please contact Mr McGreal on r.mcgregal@stokesleyschool.org.

We have completed our preparations for the wider opening of school for Y12 students, who will be joining us for one or two lessons per week in each of their 3-4 A-Level subjects from Monday. This has involved developing comprehensive risk assessments; communicating with students, staff and parents; and creating a video of the school site to allay any fears prior to students arriving with us next week. We are delighted that the vast majority of our older students are returning to school, and those that aren't have valid and understandable reasons.

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Once we are happy the plans for Y12 have been successfully put into practice, we will finalise arrangements for Y10 which will include further detailed communication with parents/carers and students. Please can we stress that due to careful planning regarding social distancing, we must be informed if a student wants to attend but hasn't previously put his/her name down, and you must follow standard absence procedures if your son/daughter has his/her name down but now cannot come in for whatever reason. Once again, we regret that we are only able to provide this contact for a small proportion of our students at this stage, but all students will benefit from the work we are doing now as soon as we are given permission to welcome them back too.

Students in Y7-9 will still receive a PRP report for the end of this academic year, but with a couple of changes to reflect the current situation. These reports will not be printed as stickers and stuck into planners, but they will be available to view via the SIMS parent app. If you haven't yet registered for this please email admin@stokesleyschool.org. Having not been in school for the past few months, the students will not receive an ambition ladder score, but instead will receive an indicator of how engaged they have been with the work set by the teachers remotely (engaged, partially engaged, or not engaged). Where students have not been engaged at all, the teachers may be unable to give an accurate current pathway; in these few cases, this will be clearly marked on the report. To aid your understanding of your son/daughter's current position, his/her pathway from PRP1 will also be on the report. Should you have any concerns when you receive the report, please contact the subject teacher in the first instance via email.

As we continue to recognise the importance of positive recognition and the boost it gives to students who are working in isolation, a whopping 2086 ambition points were awarded last week! We have been inspired by the positive impact of this and are already planning how we can keep up some of our more successful lockdown strategies as and when we all return.

Last week we announced to Year 6 parents that School Shop, our uniform supplier, is now taking bookings for the uniform sizing events on the 8th, 9th and 10th of July. The appointments can be booked on the School-Shop website, www.school-shop.co.uk. Currently, this is only for Year 6 students. However, later this month, we will let you know if there are sufficient time slots available for parents of students in other year groups who would like to book a sizing appointment too.

Mrs Darbyshire wrote to you some weeks ago in great detail about our response to OFQUAL's directive in relation to the grading and ranking process for our students expected to take examinations in 2020. After implementing training for all staff and following a rigorous process of moderation, data entry and quality assurance checks at every level, we are pleased to announce that we have submitted all our grades and ranking to the exam boards. The boards will now consider our submission and apply their national procedures under the guidance of OFQUAL. We are confident that we have fulfilled our role to the highest of standards and each

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level has been subject to scrutiny by our Heads of Faculty, the key team of senior leaders including myself as Head of Centre, and the Local Governing Body.

Finally, Stokesley School has a number of student-led initiatives and extra-curricular groups; this is an area of the school that we are keen to develop even further. One of these groups is the Stokesley Green Group. You should have received a letter this week written by the students themselves telling you a little more about some of the eco-friendly changes they have already made in our school, and activities they plan to continue while students are still learning remotely. It makes me very proud to see our students continuing to take initiative and make a contribution to the world around them.

Please keep in touch with school and let us know about any inspirational student stories that we can include in this letter, or in the student broadcast.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

