



Friday 3rd July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week's update contains information on: the recent parent survey; Y12 and Y10 in school; planning for September; the Y9 into Y10 preparation for GCSE booklet; PRP reports for Y7, Y8 and Y9; tutor meetings for all students in school; A-Level and GCSE exam results days; Y13 Awards; Y11 into Y12 induction; tutor group names; uniform sizing; and the end of term and getting in touch over the summer.

The recent parent survey

Thank you for the responses provided to the recent survey where we asked about any aspects of our communication and practice you would like us to retain post-lockdown. We are delighted that the vast majority of respondents are pleased with how the school has managed lockdown and expressed interest in the continuation of more regular Headteacher updates, the ambition points directly to the parent app, digital postcards and the bulletin. We will make sure your feedback influences our decisions as we plan ahead. A few parents have also given an honest appraisal of the frustration they have with aspects of the current provision or methods the school has employed; rest assured, every comment has been read and taken into account. It is important to note that 'live' teaching via Google that some parents, and students, say they would value more of is not necessarily the ultimate solution for improved progress. There is little evidence base for any of the methods of learning schools are using during lockdown and what the ultimate impact of each might be. We are keen to simply get our students fully back in school, safely, and teach them in the way that we know best. Having said this, your comments are influencing our contingency planning and expectations of staff from September should a local lockdown be necessary in the future - as seen in Leicester this week - and we are forced to go back to remote learning temporarily. Finally, thank you for the feedback that you appreciate these letters but sometimes find them a little long with aspects that are not relevant; as a response, I have added sub-headings to go with the overview at the top. I hope this aids you in selecting the parts that are most important to you.

Y12 and Y10 in school

Y12 students and Y10 students have continued with their rotas in school over the last week. Y12 students are participating in one taught lesson per subject per week, and Y10 are being supported by subject specialists with their Google classroom work and undertaking some recall and gap analysis tasks on a rotation. For Y10 parents' information, the fortnightly rota runs in this order: maths, English, science, languages/general support, and history/geography; the rota begins again on Monday for the final two weeks of term. A small group of invited students in Y9 will also be joining us next week for a couple of sessions before the end of term.

Guidance for September

The Department for Education has now published the guidance to support schools with opening for all students from September. For secondary schools in particular, this presents a logistical challenge in terms of ensuring minimised contact with others within the cohort: we have approximately 1150 students in our school! We are busy interpreting the guidance as you read this, and will be in touch with our plans as soon as we can be. The link to the guidance, for your reference, is shown below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

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The Y9 into Y10 GCSE preparation booklet

The Y9 into Y10 preparing for GCSE booklet has now been sent out to both parents and students via email, a copy has been placed into the students' google classroom and is available on our website. The students should be working through the pages of the subjects they are continuing with next year, and only these subjects. This booklet is designed to give three weeks' worth of work to help prepare students for their GCSE courses when they return in September: it is not to replace any teaching that will happen when they start the course. Students should work through the activities to help them complete the assessment that is towards the bottom of each page which should then be handed in. Where students have been given a google classroom code to join for that subject, they should use this as soon as possible.

PRP reports for Y7, Y8 and Y9

The latest PRP reports for Y7, Y8 and Y9 will be available in the SIMS App next week and if anybody still can't access the app (as mentioned by some in the parent survey) you should email admin@stokesleyschool.org who will offer help. Instead of an ambition ladder score that you are used to seeing on PRP reports, you will have a different code that will indicate students' levels of engagement with the work set online during lockdown.

Tutor meetings for all students in school

We have contacted all parents/carers of students in Y7-Y10 and Y12 to offer them the opportunity to arrange for their son/daughter to meet face-to-face with his/her tutor. In Y10 and Y12 the support is in the form of an academic review followed by a pastoral discussion to support their reintegration back into school. This is similar in Y7-Y9 but is aimed at supporting them through the final weeks, and helping to alleviate any concerns they may have about returning to school in September. If your son/daughter has not yet booked a slot but would like one, please get in touch with your son/daughter's tutor for assistance. We would like as many students as possible to participate.

August results days

A-Level and GCSE exam results days are on the 13th and 20th August respectively. Mrs Darbyshire is preparing for all eventualities and will be writing to all students and parents/carers in Y11 and Y13 to detail how this process will run depending on the national guidance. We hope to be able to invite students into school for their results as is traditional, but if this is not possible support will be on-hand throughout the days remotely.

Y13 awards

Mr Weedy is currently finalising the nominations and video presentations for our Y13 awards, which will be distributed to the Y13 students and their parents/carers in the final week of this term. It is so important that the myriad of successes our Y13 students have achieved does not go unnoticed, and we are extremely excited to celebrate them with you in one of the final moments of the school year. This is clearly only a small substitute for our normal celebration event, but is a small token of our appreciation of this wonderful year group. (Both Y11 and Y13 students can also expect a small message from their school in the post soon to mark the end of their time with us, or their transition to Sixth Form).

Y11 into Y12 induction

Mr Weedy - alongside Mr Beattie, Assistant Head of Sixth form - has also created a short Y12 induction video which will go out to Y11 students and parents/carers next week. Y11 students have not had the opportunity to experience the sixth form facilities we have on offer, so we would like to take them all on a brief, virtual tour. I apologise in advance for Mr Weedy and Mr Beattie's attempts at humour!





Tutor group names

For the last week, students and staff have been voting on 5 different choices for the names of our tutor groups. 417 votes were cast and the winner, with 35% of the votes, is The Greek Gods. Having these names will allow us to help develop the Stokesley School identity, healthy competition between year groups, and - specifically in terms of the Greek Gods - an understanding that everyone has strengths and weaknesses too. The eight names chosen are: Apollo, Artemis, Athena, Demeter, Hera, Hermes, Poseidon and Zeus.

Uniform sizing

Just a quick reminder: our Year 6 uniform sizing takes place next week on the 8th, 9th and 10th July, sizing is strictly by appointment, but the booking service is now open to all year groups. Parents can book an appointment at www.school-shop.co.uk.

The end of term

For all parents, I would like to confirm that our usual early finish for students on the last day of the summer term will still take place at 12.40pm on Friday 17th July by which time staff will have concluded their teaching and assessment for this academic year (we can still supervise key worker's children/vulnerable children during the afternoon if required). In the afternoon's directed time for staff, we will be saying goodbye to staff leavers and conducting staff briefings in readiness for September. Throughout the summer break, many of us will still be working and our email address office@stokesleyschool.org will be monitored periodically should you need to urgently get in touch. Furthermore, we will make contact with you ahead of the new academic year starting to make sure everyone is clear on plans and protocols, as well as being available for Y11 and Y13 on and around results days as previously mentioned.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

