



Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the penultimate update of the academic year, you can find information regarding: the appointment of our Head Boy and Girl for 2020-21; details about Chromebooks for Y6 students (and students in other year groups who would like one); information about uniform sizing this week and uniform for all students in September; dates for students return in September; an appeal for outdoor furniture; another update on our building improvements; a reminder regarding how to get in touch about special educational needs; and some goodbyes to staff.

Head boy and girl

I always knew that choosing the Head Boy and Head Girl for next academic year was going to be difficult; what I didn't realise was quite how difficult it would be! The calibre of answers from each and every student was exemplary, and they all showed such a myriad of different strengths, so much so that picking the two successful candidates proved to be a real conundrum. Obviously, it was a nice problem to have! In the end, Mr Weedy and I settled on a perfect pairing that will undoubtedly be an asset to the school as well as a privilege for us to work with. Our new Head Boy is the eloquent Ben Johnson, and our new Head Girl is the passionate Holly Margetts: may their reign prove to be a roaring success!

Chromebooks for Y6 into Y7 (and other year groups)

The details for ordering a chromebook through the leasing scheme have now been finalised and will be shared with you shortly, along with a video explaining what you need to do to sign up. The portal will be open for a couple of weeks and we have been assured by the company that delivery of the devices will be in time for the start of term in September. The portal will also be open to anybody else in other year groups who wish to lease a chromebook through the scheme including Y12 and Y13 students, although the length of lease for other students will be dependent on how long your child has left with us at Stokesley School and Sixth Form College. If you have any questions, please contact r.mcgregal@stokesleyschool.org.

Uniform sizing and uniform in September

We have had an incredibly calm, successful and socially distant uniform sizing event over the last three days. The response from parents and children attending has been very positive. The opportunity to run our sizing event in this way, which of course was forced upon us by coronavirus, has certainly given us food for thought in terms of potentially following a similar model in the future with bookable appointments. In relation to uniform, now seems the perfect opportunity to remind parents/carers that we expect all students to wear full uniform in September, including their allocated year group ties. From September the tie colours are: Year 7 - purple, Year 8 - orange, Year 9 green, Year 10 blue and Year 11 red.

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Back to school dates and planning

We are incredibly excited at the prospect of welcoming all of our students back to school in September, but want to reassure you that their health, safety and wellbeing have been - and continue to be - at the forefront of our minds in our planning. On **Monday 7th September**, as is always the case on the first day, school will be open for our **Year 7 and Year 12 students only** to give them a headstart as they embark on their new journeys. Y7 will have a condensed version of the transition days, during which they will spend time with their tutor, meet and get to know their tutor group, as well as taking part in some exciting activities and challenges linked to a range of curriculum areas Y12 will learn more about standards and expectations in the Sixth Form. This day is more important than ever with traditional summer transition events being cancelled due to the pandemic.

On **Tuesday 8th September we will welcome back students in all year groups**. It is imperative that students attend school on this day, as the focus will not only be on re-integrating the students back into the school community, on re-establishing routines, and on offering pastoral and academic support, but will also be on student health and safety and on how their school day will look under the measures we are putting in place to keep both staff and students safe.

Rest assured, parents/carers and students will be fully informed about our back to school plans in light of the recently received Department for Education guidance in advance of students returning to school. We will text you and email/post important, detailed information in August in readiness for the new academic year, as well as provide some insights in next week's update. Our detailed risk assessment will also be published on our website over the summer break so parents/carers can be reassured about the priority we are giving to everyone's safety.

I shared a link to the guidance for schools last week; you may also find it useful to read the following information which is written specifically with parents in mind: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>.

An appeal for outdoor furniture

As we plan for September, we would like to increase our outdoor seating capacity; to achieve this, we are appealing to our staff, parents and wider community. We would love to receive donations of good quality, robust garden benches or seating that can be placed around the school site for students to use at break and lunchtime as additional places to eat and socialise in fine weather. If you would like to donate a piece of garden furniture, please email admin@stokesleyschool.org.





Improving our buildings

Following the fabulous announcement from the DfE about our £1.5 million funding for refurbishment of the Sports Hall and Sixth Form Block, we held meetings with the project management team and approved sub-contractor this week. Work begins on the Sports Hall imminently with a proposed completion date in November. The Sixth Form will follow closely behind, with a start date of Easter 2021 in readiness for September next year. We are thoroughly excited about the benefits this work will bring to our students and the wider community.

Getting in touch regarding special educational needs

We will continue to monitor the sen@stokesleyschool.org email address over the summer holidays, so if you have any concerns during the break, please feel free to contact us and someone from the team will be in touch.

Staff Leavers

We say a fond farewell to some of our staff next week. Miss McLorg in languages moves on after completing her NQT year with us; Ms Atkinson is retiring from the history department; Mr Kenworthy moves on from the IT department as Miss Dinsley returns from maternity leave; Mr Sills takes an exciting leap from lab technician to science teacher; Miss Fitzwalter leaves us after almost 6 years of service to our science department; and Mrs Agarwal also takes a step away from teaching after 7 years of inspiring a generation of mathematicians.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Mrs H.L. Millett
Headteacher

