



**Friday 17th July 2020**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The final update of the year contains the following information: a correction from last week's letter; some more detail on September opening; a reminder about Y11/Y13 results days; and a massive thank you from us to you.

### A correction

In last week's parent update, I listed some staff leavers and incorrectly stated that Ms Fitzwalter, science teacher, had totted up a mere 6 years of service when it has actually been 16!

### September Opening

As detailed in a text message you should have received this week and the banner on the school website, I would like to confirm the return to school dates for all students:

**Y7 and Y12 only:** Monday 7th September

**All year groups:** Tuesday 8th September

As you can no doubt imagine, we are conducting in depth planning for the safe return of both students and staff on these dates. We will focus all of our detailed communication with you about back to school arrangements in the final 2-3 weeks of the summer term, so please look out for these updates then. In the meantime, the list below highlights some of the things we are working on to ensure your son/daughter can return to school or college with confidence.

1. We are writing and implementing a full risk assessment that will be published on our website prior to September.
2. We are following the DfE guidance to keep year groups together as much as possible and to facilitate this we have:
  - a. re-roomed the timetable and created year group 'pods' in specific areas of the school (Y12 and Y13 will be grouped together);
  - b. created bespoke recreational areas for each year group; and
  - c. altered the timings of the day to facilitate a split break and lunch system (start and finish times will not change although Y7 will be let out a few minutes early so we can support them with buses etc).
3. We are installing 30+ hand sanitising stations (non-alcohol) in school to facilitate a strict hygiene regime in line with Public Health England advice.
4. We are developing and expanding our dining facilities, as well as our food offer, to ensure we can effectively cater for all year groups on site from September.
5. Although buses are under the remit of North Yorkshire County Council, we are in regular contact with Passenger Transport and eagerly await updates about buses for September.
6. Alongside the year group 'pods', we have written a specialist room timetable that will allow students to safely access specialist facilities outside of their pod such as art, IT, science, technology and more, so their curriculum remains broad, balanced and engaging.
7. So that our excellent pastoral care will not be compromised by health and safety requirements, we are planning to adapt and continue all of our current student support within the new guidelines.

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

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

01642 710050





8. Finally, we are also carefully planning the first couple of days in September for all students to include a combination of remote assemblies (beamed to their tutor rooms) and plenty of support and information to help them transition back into school life and understand the changes we have made to their school.

The list goes on and everything will be fully explained to parents and carers next month in a 'Returning to School Guide', a series of Facebook updates, and emails/texts . We cannot wait to have all of our students back in school, and hope they feel the same way too.

### Exam results days

Parents and carers of Y11 and Y13 students have received information about results days and the various plans we have in place depending on the national situation. Look out for a text message 48 hours before the results day dates confirming which option we will be enacting.

### A massive thank you from us

It is clearer now more than ever, that a school or college is not simply a building: it is a place that is built upon face-to-face contact, human relationships, and quiet judgements made subtly and constantly by adults based upon a student's body language or the way they enter a room. School staff working from home is, really, counter-intuitive. The changes to our daily practices have been huge, as I am sure they have been for you too. All of these challenges could not have been tackled without such fantastic support from our parents and carers: we know we don't always please everyone with the choices we make, but we have been overwhelmed by the amount of positive encouragement (and cakes!) we have received in school over the last few months. Thank you so much for everything you have done to support the school, and to motivate your sons and daughters to keep learning, even when the time has stretched out far longer than any of us may have initially expected it to. All being well, we look forward to playing our full role in the education of your precious children again very soon; we also look forward to continuing working with you effectively to make sure they really are the best they can be. If your son or daughter is in Y11 or Y13 and moving on to pastures new, we wish them every success.

I wish you well for the weeks ahead, whatever they may hold.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. H. L. Millett  
Headteacher

