



Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all students back into school safely over the past few weeks. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your son or daughter, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your sons and daughters to do the same.

In today's parent letter, you can find information on: our return to school; the process when students are asked to self-isolate; pre-assessment testing for Y11 and Y13; curriculum enhancement activities; and, ambition and behaviour points so far.

Return to school

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all students to school. We know that you will also be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, what our plans are to ensure all students have continuity of learning in these uncertain times, and what will happen if a student is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

<p>School reopenings</p>	<p>As you know, our school and college is open for all year groups and for full days. There have been three confirmed coronavirus cases in students that almost certainly originated outside of school and have led to the self-isolation of 54 students in Y7, 57 students in Y10, and 10 students in Y13.</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<p>Our whole school attendance stands at 95% in the main school and 98% in our Sixth Form. These are pleasing figures given the national picture, although it should be noted that students self-isolating are not counted in this data.</p>
<p>Coverage of the curriculum</p>	<p>We are proud that our pod system has been designed to ensure that we have not had to narrow our curriculum and offer fewer subjects. This does, however, lead to more students needing to isolate when we are informed of a case due to the different combinations of classes within the pod. On balance though, a full curriculum is the best thing for our students in order to prepare them for their lives ahead, beyond Coronavirus.</p>

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

www.stokesleyschool.org

01642 710050





<p>Remote learning</p>	<p>In-line with government guidance, we have plans for remote learning in place and are working on further developments to ensure this as high quality and as closely aligned to the standard curriculum as possible. When a student is required to self-isolate, they are currently set work on the google classroom to keep them in step with their peers and - where possible or appropriate - invited to a live lesson or provided with videos. To ensure the provision of 'live' lessons is universally available and can be used by all staff where appropriate, we require further investment in technology which we are currently seeking. We will keep you posted on this as we make progress.</p>
<p>Mental health and wellbeing</p>	<p>The mental health and wellbeing of all our students remains paramount and we would encourage all students who are experiencing difficulties in this area to talk to a trusted adult as soon as possible. In school, this might mean a form tutor or head of year. Support for students experiencing mental health difficulties can also be accessed via a number of support lines and agencies, listed below:</p> <p>Buzz Us: A confidential text messaging service run by COMPASS for those aged 11 - 18 in the North Yorkshire area. 07520 631168. In a mental health emergency, the crisis line is open 24 hours a day 0300 0200317.</p> <p>Kooth: An online mental health website with 24 hour access https://www.kooth.com/</p>

Process when students are required to self-isolate

I wrote to you recently about the process I follow when informed of a positive coronavirus case, and how I work with the relevant external bodies to identify contacts. As a parent/carer, should your son or daughter be required to self-isolate, you can expect the following process:

1. you will receive a text message asking you to collect your son or daughter as soon as possible from the Station Road entrance* (or leisure centre for Sixth Formers) and check your emails;
2. you will receive an email with a standard letter advising you about the case with further information in the covering email from me about when your son or daughter can return to school; and,
3. you will receive a further email from Assistant Headteacher, Mr McGreal, outlining how learning will be continued for your son or daughter.

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

www.stokesleyschool.org

01642 710050





If you do not hear from us, your son or daughter is fine to come to school. It is only direct contacts of the infected individual who must self-isolate; it does not matter if your son or daughter has come into contact with someone else who has been sent home, unless they develop symptoms. As a reminder, if your son or daughter is sent home, the rest of the family do not need to self-isolate unless symptoms develop.

*Please note, Sixth Form students do not need to be collected by a parent/carer and will be sent directly home following the text message and email if possible. We are also in the process of collating parental consent for any students in main school who have permission to walk home, although it must be stressed that they should do this immediately and not visit anywhere else en route.

Pre-assessment testing for Y11 and Y13

Students in Y11 and Y13 will be sitting pre-assessment tests over the next three weeks. All tests will be taken in their pod during normal scheduled lessons. The main purpose of these tests is for us to use the results as an analytical tool to inform our planning for teaching and learning for the year ahead. It is good practice to assess students at the beginning of any module to ascertain where there are gaps in students' knowledge. It is even more important, following the events of 2020, to ensure we identify individual students for early intervention and support where it is needed. Students will be tested on their knowledge of work which was taught last year prior to the partial school closure to support the national lockdown. Students have been informed of the tests, but we would like to stress that they are *not* mock examinations. Students have been advised to prepare themselves as they would normally do. Mrs Darbyshire will write to you shortly about how the Y11 mock examination process will run in November.

For Y13, these pre-assessments will also help teachers decide upon predicted grades which we send to universities, but they are not the only measure that we use. Whilst we want our Y13s to study assiduously, we also want them to know that we will take their previous work ethic and other, smaller assessments into account. We also provide predicted grades which reflect the best possible grade we feel our students could achieve in the summer, so it is likely that predicted grades will be higher than those attained in the coming weeks.

Y12 bridging assessments

Y12 will be sitting similar assessments to Y11 and Y13 that focus on the bridging work they received over the summer and then continued to study on their return to school. These assessments will help teachers identify students who need early support with the transition between GCSE study and A-Level.





Curriculum enhancement

We are really proud that at Stokesley School we offer a wide range of curriculum enhancement opportunities. In the current climate, it is not possible to offer all that we would normally do. However, Mrs Darbyshire, Deputy Headteacher, has been working with a number of our dedicated staff to offer some new opportunities. In the last two weeks we have had our first school-wide reading for pleasure competitions to celebrate the works of Roald Dahl led by Mrs Roberts, Open Learning Centre Manager. Our student leaders have planned their first virtual meeting to launch our 'Go Green' Campaign with Mr Wilkinson, Pastoral Support Officer, and Miss White, Teacher of Geography. Finally, we are excited to be launching our debating club with Mr Sharland, Teacher of English, where we will be linking up with other schools and participating in live debates. We are very excited to be joining Oxford University's national debates, starting this month, which include fascinating debates about the future and whether there will ever be a time when X-Men could be real!

Ambition points and behaviour points

As you are aware, one of the positive developments we took from the lockdown was subject teachers awarding ambition points directly through the SIMs system, enabling parents to have daily feedback in terms of positive recognition given to students through the Parent App. At the time of writing, a staggering 7876 ambition points have been awarded. The points are fairly evenly spread across all year groups. However Y9 are currently leading with 2094 points awarded. In contrast, there have been only 389 behaviour incidents recorded, many of which are equipment infringements. The behaviour of our students on the whole is outstanding and we appreciate - and expect - these high standards more than ever during these challenging times.

Have a wonderful weekend and stay safe,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

