



September 2020

Dear parents/carers of our year seven students,

MEET THE SENIOR TEAM

Last year, we ran a successful 'meet the senior team' event at our school to introduce ourselves to our new parents and give a brief insight into who we are and what we do in your school. This year a similar event is sadly not possible, so instead we have produced this letter which provides an introduction to the staff who - alongside our wonderful teachers and support staff - are leading your child through their journey towards GCSEs, A-Levels and beyond.



MRS. HANNAH MILLETT

Headteacher

I have worked at Stokesley for just over 3 years now, firstly as Head of School working under the previous Headteacher, and then as Headteacher from Easter 2018. Previously, I have been a senior leader in two other North Yorkshire Schools (Thirsk School & Sixth Form College and King James School & Sixth Form College in Knaresborough) and also worked as an Advanced Skills Teacher of English within the Redcar and Cleveland authority prior to that. My job in school is to oversee all strategic and operational matters. I directly manage the members of the senior team introduced in this letter, as well as our Designated Safeguarding Lead and Admin Manager, Mrs Myers, and my Personal Assistant, Mrs Armstrong. I also work closely with the Headteachers from our other Trust schools, as well as the CEO and the Deputy CEO, to help shape the lives of the students in the whole of Areté Learning Trust.

I have two older sons who have now left sixth form college: one on an apprenticeship, and one in his final year of university. I am also, for my sins, an avid Boro fan and hold a season ticket for better or (more often than not at the moment) for worse!

My job is one of incredible challenges but even bigger rewards, and I am very proud to hold such a privileged position shaping your child's educational journey. I look forward to working with you over the years to come.

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

www.stokesleyschool.org

01642 710050



MRS. JANE DARBYSHIRE

Deputy Headteacher, Achievement and Standards

Prior to working at Stokesley, I worked at Acklam Grange School in Middlesbrough for over 17 years. Most recently as Assistant Headteacher, but have also held the position of Head of Year and Head of Department. Having had a successful career in industry, I moved into teaching after being asked to take an assembly in my former secondary school! All I can say is something clicked, the passion was ignited and I have never looked back.

As Deputy Headteacher at Stokesley, I support Mrs Millett in the day to day running of the school through raising standards and maintaining high expectations across all areas. I directly manage the Heads of Faculty for English, mathematics and science, and ensure that we are constantly raising achievement and enabling all students, regardless of starting points and background to be the best they can be in everything they do. In addition to this, I also line manage our OLC (Library) Manager, Literacy Leader, Alternative Provision Coordinator, Exams Officer and our Educational Welfare Officer.

I have two sons, one who has just entered his final year of his degree in Manchester and one who is in Y6. I am equally proud of them and whilst they enjoy a plethora of their own hobbies and interests, I join my younger one in his love of surfing, despite the fact that he is much better than me! My passion for dance, literature, the arts and fitness fills my time both in and out of school.

Your child is being welcomed into a school where all of our staff are passionate about every child's success, irrespective of the circumstances which we find ourselves in and I couldn't be prouder to support them over the next seven years of their life's journey.



MR. ROB MCGREAL

Assistant Headteacher, Data and Curriculum

This is my 12th year of teaching at Stokesley school, first as Head of the maths faculty, then as an associate principal on the senior leadership team, and now as Assistant Headteacher for the past 6 years. Before working at Stokesley I taught maths for 6 years at Nunthorpe school where I was also assistant head of maths and assistant head of year for a while too.

My role on the senior leadership team at Stokesley has developed over time. My current areas of responsibility are curriculum development and data. That means that I oversee the work that our middle leaders do on deciding exactly what content we deliver to the students, as well as how they sequence the learning to build upon the students' prior knowledge. I also run our personalised options process in Y8 and GCSE options process in

Y9. I also construct the school timetable, which certainly was a challenge this year! In my data role I am responsible for generating targets for students and providing staff with the information they need to support the students in the classroom, as well the wider leadership team to plan any further support needed for students who may need it.

In my own time I am a keen golfer and general sports fan! Although my real sporting passion is Rugby League; having been born and bred in Warrington there really wasn't much choice! I have two children, one in year 9 and one in year 4 and enjoy spending time with my family and going on days out and trips away to the Lakes when we can.

I am incredibly fortunate to work at Stokesley school and feel very lucky to have had the opportunities that working at Stokesley has given me. I enjoy working with all of our young adults to help them achieve their potential, and I'm really proud of the difference our school makes to so many of them.



MR. JAMES BURNS

Assistant Headteacher, Engagement and Wellbeing

I have been at Stokesley school for just over a year, and what a year it has been! For all of us, March 20th 2020 will always be the month we remember as the start of lockdown. Obviously, finishing my first academic year at Stokesley school working from home and in school with around a dozen young people a day was not how I envisaged my first year finishing.

I have been lucky enough to work in some fabulous schools since qualifying as a maths teacher in July 2004... and some that were extremely challenging. My experiences across a range of Teesside schools have made me who I am today. I have been fortunate to have had some incredible experiences during my professional life including a weekend in London during the two years I spent working with 'Teaching Leaders' where I presented the results of my Raising Boys' Achievement scheme in the auspicious surroundings of Westminster School to hundreds of school leaders from across the country.

I love working at Stokesley School, my role gives me the opportunity to engage with such a wide range of our students in celebrating their successes and overseeing their wellbeing. Naturally, I lead on the behaviour and attendance strategies in our School. We want every student to come to school and be able to learn in a safe and happy environment without having their learning disrupted. I am confident that Stokesley school is a place where students can thrive, growing as individuals whilst developing their knowledge and understanding of a broad range of subjects. Being the best we can be is at the heart of everything we do. Later in this document, Mrs Fox mentions we are on a journey, I will let you read her take on that journey, which I wholeheartedly agree with, but for me it is all about us making a good school great.



MR. NEIL WEEDY

Assistant Headteacher, Sixth Form and Progression

I started teaching in 2009 at The King's Academy, not far from here in Coulby Newham, where I was appointed as a Teacher of Physics. During my six-year spell I became a Lead Practitioner before moving to Leeds to undertake what I believed was my dream job: Head of Physics. Two years passed, and my better half tempted me back to the North East when Stokesley School advertised for a similar post. Since being here (a little over three years) I have had my role change quite significantly and regularly, from Associate Assistant Principal (Data), to Lead Practitioner (more Data), and finally to my current role: Assistant Headteacher, in charge of the Sixth Form.

At home, myself and my girlfriend have three newly acquired cats (Red, Blue and Violet) and, as I told everyone during last year's meet, I am quite unashamedly a geek, with a passion for physics, science-fiction, fantasy, Pokémon, video games, and everything else that comes with it. Geeks built the world as we know it, and I bear the title with pride.

I am beyond excited to have the opportunity to work with young men and women making their final steps towards full adulthood. There is simply no greater job in a school than being a Head of Sixth Form: even Head of Physics!



MRS. SARAH MCGREAL

Assistant Headteacher, SEND and Inclusion

Becoming a teacher was something which happened for me in an almost 'accidental' manner and not something that I had really planned to do, but now I cannot imagine being in any other profession. After studying English and History at university, I was told that in order to be happy, you needed to find something you loved doing and then find someone to pay you to do it, so becoming an English teacher, where I got paid to read and talk about books, seemed like an excellent idea. I started my career at St Patrick's Comprehensive in Thornaby, moving after five years to become Head of English at Nunthorpe Academy. I didn't move very far down the road to join Stokesley School in 2014, joining my husband in working here.

As the parent of two children, one in year 9, I have experienced first-hand some of the challenges and joys that come with parenting a teenager. Unfortunately, teenagers don't come with a user manual but working with them is very rewarding.

As Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator for the school, I am incredibly privileged to work so closely with so many wonderful families and students. I am proud to be the advocate in school for some of our most vulnerable young people, who - without our excellent special educational needs department and inclusive school - can feel isolated or ignored.



MRS. LIZZI FOX

Director of Teaching and Learning

I've always wanted to be a teacher: my mum and dad were both secondary heads and used to sneak me register books and board pens home from school so I could play schools with my teddie! My *real* career in education, however, started in my gap year, when I worked for 6 months as a teaching assistant in a secondary school quite like this one, and then travelled to India to teach English as a foreign language in the Himalayas. I came home, went to university and then was lucky enough to enrol on a graduate teaching programme called Teach First. I was placed in a school in an incredibly deprived area of Sheffield and it's there that I spent 6 years earning my stripes as a teacher of English.

We - my husband, two young sons and I - relocated to Yourkshire and, 6 years on, I'm still here and am absolutely loving my role as both an English teacher and as Director of Teaching and Learning. In my capacity as Director of Teaching and Learning, it's my responsibility to ensure that the young people who you send through our doors are delivered engaging, challenging and supportive lessons by teachers who know and understand their subjects inside out. I'm also proud to be responsible for our LIFE curriculum - the PSHE curriculum - which is designed to ensure that our students are well prepared for the 'real world' both during their time here, and when they move on to the next stage of their lives.

I absolutely love working here, and am honoured to be a part of Mrs Millett's leadership team. There is a real sense amongst both staff and students that we are on a journey together and are going to achieve great things: it's great to be a part of that!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "H. L. Millett".

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher