



Friday 11th December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to your final parent/carer letter of 2020: a year we could never have envisaged. To round off the term, you will find updates on: our parent survey; the upcoming Y11 and Y13 parents' evenings; recent national announcements regarding examinations in 2021; our foodbank appeal; our charity Christmas jumper day; recent covid cases; how to inform us about a case during the break; and, our fantastic student shield design competition.

Reminder regarding parent survey

Please don't forget to have your say in our parent survey which can be accessed via the following link:

- <https://survey.gi-assessment.co.uk/s/QBROPM/>
- Your password is: SS18199parent
- The password is case sensitive

We look forward to reading your views and comparing our impact with the other secondary schools in our Trust who have the same survey underway with their parents. The survey closes on Friday 18th December.

Upcoming Y11 and Y13 parents' evenings

We have written to our Y11 and Y13 parents regarding virtual parents' evenings in January. The dates for these are as follows: Year 11 will take place on the 14th and 15th January from 3:30-6pm. Year 13 will take place on Thursday 28th January from 3:30-6:30pm. We are looking forward to adapting our practice to make these virtual evenings as effective as possible, and will roll out our learning to the remainder of the year groups across the rest of the academic year.

Summary of national announcements regarding exams in 2021

Last week the government made a series of announcements regarding examinations in 2021. A summary of the key details are shown below for your convenience.

1. Grades awarded will be aligned with teacher assessed grades given in 2020. Therefore, grade boundaries will be more generous than they have been in the past.
2. There will be advance notice given of some of the topics on the GCSE, AS and A Level papers. We do not know which ones yet.
3. Exam aids will be allowed in some exams, such as formula sheets, to give students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to remember.
4. Additional exams or 'reserve papers' will be put in place in case students miss the main test because of illness or isolation.





5. In 'extreme cases' where a student has a valid reason for missing all papers, a 'validated teacher assessment' can be used. This is expected to be a rare occurrence.
6. An expert group has been set up to look at 'differential learning'. This group will consider how the pandemic has affected different groups across the country and how this can be taken into account.
7. Adaptations will also be made to technical and vocational qualifications e.g. subjects that are not GCSE but equivalent, such as our hospitality, engineering, child development, ICT, event operations, and health and social care courses.

Foodbank Appeal

Our foodbank appeal launched by the Head Boy and Girl and supported by Mr Hamer, Head of Year 11, was hugely successful. A huge thank you to everyone who donated, we were quite overwhelmed by the amount of support. The food was collected this week by the Trussell Trust to be distributed to those in need over the festive season.



Christmas jumpers for Save the Children

Today has been our annual Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children which has brought some much-needed festive cheer to our school. Staff and students have worn their jumpers with pride whilst also supporting a worthwhile cause.





Recent covid cases

As you are aware, after another relatively quiet spell, we have been notified of two positive cases by our families this week: one in Y12 and one in Y11. This has required us to follow the track and trace procedures put in place for schools by the government. We are acutely aware that some of our students have now experienced more than one isolation period, and extend our sympathies to these students and their families. Although we all agree there is no real substitute to being in school, our 'live' teaching provision is now fully in place. Taking part in live lessons from home significantly reduces the negative impact on learning of having to isolate to stop the spread of the virus; therefore, we encourage all our students to take part. It is welcome news that mass testing is being introduced in London schools; we look forward to enjoying the same level of support in our school in the fullness of time.

Contacting the school about coronavirus cases in the Christmas holidays

The school will be contactable via office@stokesleyschool.org up to and including Wednesday 23rd December. This is a requirement from the Department for Education. We hope it does not prove necessary, but please use this address to report any positive coronavirus cases within your family.

Shield competition

In September we ran a competition for students to design shields for each one of the 8 Greek Gods they voted for as their choice for tutor group names way back in the summer. We selected 8 winners from scores of entries. The shields have been professionally converted from hand drawn shields into the digital images you see below. We are absolutely delighted with the results. This week we have presented prizes to the 8 students whose designs were chosen, look out for the pictures on our facebook page. The shields will be used to represent our tutor groups and will be part of the school branding.





As per the recent letter you received from the CEO of our Trust, school now finishes for the Christmas break at **3.25pm on Thursday 17th December**. We hope you have a wonderful holiday and, if you are choosing to, enjoy spending time with your families. We look forward to seeing our students on 4th January: healthy, happy and ready for a positive 2021.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher