



Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today's fortnightly parent update contains information on: a change to our advertised PD day; testing in-school and at home; the deadline for Y9 options choices; the upcoming Y7 parents' evening; a way to recycle and purchase uniform; and, attendance in school this week.

Important information regarding a change to our upcoming PD day

You will know from our website that we have a professional development day scheduled for the first day back after the Easter holidays, Monday 12th April. This is a day where staff are in school, but students are off and do not take part in lessons. Given the disruption to learning caused by coronavirus and the fact students have only just come back into school, we feel strongly as a staff that this PD day should be moved back. We are particularly mindful of the relatively short time our Y11 and Y13 students have left and the fact that two Mondays have recently been disrupted by our mass testing programme. After discussions in school, we are moving this PD day to Friday 18th June which will be after Y11 and Y13 have left, but also coincide with the submission date for grades, and give our staff a chance to focus on their preparations for the months ahead for Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y12 - as well as our upcoming Y6. I would never normally change the school calendar mid-year, but I trust you will appreciate this is being done in the best interests of our students and these are exceptional circumstances.

Testing Update

As this letter arrives with you, we are part way through our second testing day. A large majority of our students have taken part in the on-site testing and we completed 1030 tests on Monday. The students were incredible, taking everything in their stride and helping us to make it as efficient and pain-free as possible. Thank you for your help too, ferrying your children back and forth to their appointments. At the end of Monday's mammoth testing shift, we were overwhelmed by your positive comments on Facebook - it means the world to us to have such support.

We have now received a shipment of self-test kits for students to use at home once they have had their final test on site next Monday. Home testing should be completed twice-weekly three to five days apart, so your home test for next week should not be any sooner than Thursday 18th March. We are going to give out the tests as the students leave their appointment on Monday 15th; please ask them about the kit when they get home. Any students that are not attending on-site testing appointments will be given their kit to bring home at the end of the day on Tuesday 16th. Further information about home testing will be sent on Monday in the usual way.



Last call for Y9 options choices

Don't forget the deadline for students to enter their option choices online is today! Students who do not meet this deadline will be in danger of missing out on their preferred options should classes be full. To enter their choices the students need to go to www.sims-options.co.uk and login using the google option that is linked to their school accounts. There is a video showing how to do this on our school options website www.stokesleyoptions.co.uk along with all the other information you need to make informed choices. The subjects students are allocated to will be confirmed after the Easter holidays

Y7 Parents' Evening

You have received your invitation from Mrs Darbyshire, Deputy Headteacher, to make appointments for our virtual Y7 parents' evening: the event itself will take place on Thursday 25th March. We have already held three parents' evenings using this system with great success. Feedback from our parents / carers in Y9, Y11 and Y13 stated that the system allowed for privacy of appointments, ease of booking and enabled them to get detailed reports about their son / daughters progress without the need to travel. Should you need any support with booking, please contact admin@stokesleyschool.org.

Uniform

With so much face-to-face school missed over this last year and ever growing students, we know that some of you are finding that they have outgrown their barely worn uniform. In addition, we recognise that many families are experiencing financial hardship during these difficult times and we want to make the return to school for students as easy as possible.

Did you know that the PTA runs a second hand uniform shop? Items are only accepted in excellent condition and are washed / disinfected ready for resale so are brilliant value.

Price List

- Blazers £5
- V-neck jumpers £3
- Trousers / skirts £3
- Long sleeved PE sweatshirts £3
- Short sleeved PE tops £2
- Ties / PE shorts £1

There is also a small stock of school shoes, trainers / football boots and coats.

If you would like to purchase any items please email Naomi Gate, a member of our PTA, on naomi.gate@icloud.com. Additionally, if you would like to donate any items these would be greatly appreciated and you can leave them at school reception.

If you are still struggling to obtain a uniform item or have any additional needs regarding your child's return to school, please do not hesitate to contact Miss J Poole our Education Welfare Officer on j.poole@stokesleyschool.org who will be more than happy to help.





Attendance

We were absolutely delighted with the attendance figures for our return to face-to-face teaching this week. Over 97% of our students were in school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday which is a fantastically high figure and one every student should be proud of contributing towards. We work very hard to constantly remind students of the benefits of coming to school every day and after the school closures we have faced over the last 12 months, I hope that our students will value their time in school more than ever. Once again, thank you as parents / carers for everything you do to support our aims too.

Yours faithfully

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher