



Thursday 22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a shorter than usual Headteacher's update that simply rounds off this incredible year (note the avoidance of the word 'unprecedented'!) in which we have learned to teach online to a sea of switched off cameras; developed our skills as mass testers; carried out the work of Public Health England and the government - and taken the blame when it hasn't gone right; and at the same time, continued to better our school with attendance rates that are significantly above national averages and an ever-improving standard of provision for our students. It has been a challenge, that's for sure, but we have continued to be blown away by the young people in our care. Far from being the 'Covid Generation' who have lost so much, they are an inspirational group of resilient young adults who are capable of coping with far more than they are sometimes given credit for. On top of our awe-inspiring students, we continue to feel closer to our parent/carer community - your support, encouragement and positive feedback has been invaluable to us as we have climbed each mountain that appeared before us, and we consider ourselves lucky to have such fantastic stakeholders around us.

Today, after students sign off from learning early and we have finished our preparations for the year ahead, we will gather as a staff and say goodbye to our colleagues who are leaving at the end of this academic year. Last Christmas, a group of our aforementioned wonderful parents expressed their thanks for the work of staff during the pandemic by presenting the school with a number of vouchers for the G&T House in Great Ayton. Thanks to this wonderful donation and the generous support of Michael Jones, owner of G&T House and ex-student of the school, we have been able to lay on a Hog Roast for the staff this lunchtime, with the addition of cupcakes for everyone donated by Michael. I am sure you will join me in thanking our staff for the extraordinary way in which they have adapted to the pandemic and maintained some semblance of normality and continuity for your children in the face of great adversity. A hog roast buttie doesn't quite measure up to the dedication, but it comes somewhere close!

Have a wonderful summer, take care, and we look forward to seeing all of our students in September ready and raring to go and, hopefully, under fewer - if any - restrictions. I will write to you just prior to term starting to make sure you have all the information you need to hit the ground running.

Dates for your diary

Monday 6th September: Testing for all students in school by appointment.

Tuesday 7th September: Y7 and Y12 in school only.

Wednesday 8th September: All students in school

Yours faithfully

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher





A message from Richard Crane, CEO Areté Learning Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd just like to thank you all for the support that you have shown to Stokesley School in what has been a very challenging year for all schools, and to say how impressed I have been since joining the Areté Trust at Easter with the attitude of Stokesley pupils towards school life and dealing with Covid. I also think that Mrs Millett and the staff in the school have done a brilliant job in terms of their response to the pandemic and the return to a more normal way of teaching since Easter, and I would like to say a massive thank you to them, and the pupils at the school for everything that they have done throughout the year. The senior teams across the Trust have been planning for the next academic year throughout this term and are looking at the different ways in which we can collaborate to ensure that the pupils in each of our schools get the best possible learning experience. We will be focusing on professional development of colleagues, and the development of an Areté Student Leadership Team which will work across the schools on initiatives and projects which they feel are important to them. We are really looking forward to seeing this develop and grow.

I hope that you have a lovely summer break, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to the school in September.

Best wishes

Mr R. Crane
CEO, Areté Learning Trust