



Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the latest fortnightly update in what has been a busy week with the launch of our exciting extra-curricular programme, lots of preparations being undertaken for our upcoming open evenings, interviews for a new careers team, and some brilliant teaching and learning!

Quick Read

- Did you know we have social media accounts that we update regularly? See below for how to follow us.
- Y6 Open Evening is Thursday 7th October - sign up on our website.
- Sixth Form Open Evening is Tuesday 12th October - no need to sign up, just turn up from 5pm where we will start with an introduction in the main hall.
- Y7 parents/carers - we know you missed out on open evening last year, but have you signed up for our special event on 19th October, where you can walk round the school with your child and meet the senior team and Head of Year?
- We're already planning for end of year celebration events for our Y11 and Y13 students, making sure they are as covid-proof as we can make them. Watch this space for more information.
- PE clubs are thriving and an additional communication about PE expectations will be coming out to all parents soon.
- Our LIFE curriculum goes from strength to strength with the launch of extra-curricular clubs, LIFE assemblies and our continued weekly bulletin.
- Thank you for all of your support with our refugee appeal - our staff room is full of clothes!
- Do you have trouble with getting your teenager out of bed in the morning? We are running a parent workshop on supporting sleep. See below to sign up.
- Don't forget we promise to respond to emails within 48 hours - we cannot promise to be any quicker due to the demands of the timetable and working with our young people.
- Please take care in the car park when dropping off/collecting children from school, we have witnessed dangerous manoeuvres that put children and staff at risk.
- Please encourage your child to bring a coat in inclement weather: we have multiple buildings so even moving between lessons means exposure to the elements!
- There are some upcoming dates for your diary at the bottom of the letter.

Read on for more detail on any of the bullet points above.



Longer Read

Social media

Not everyone likes to use social media, but did you know Stokesley School has three ways in which you can follow us? Twitter (@Arete_Stokesley), Instagram (stokesley_school) and Facebook (Stokesley School) are all used to share good news and important updates from school, alongside our emails and text messages.

Y6 Open Evening

Y6 Open Evening takes place on Thursday 7th October. Families can now sign up via our website for one of three talks and tours across the evening, starting at 5pm. We have been overwhelmed with volunteers from our existing students to help out on the night: with over 80 Y7s offering to be tour guides and a large group of sixth formers keen to share their expertise too!

Sixth Form Open Evening

Attention all parents of Y11s! Our sixth form Open Evening will take place on Tuesday 12th October from 5pm to 8pm, starting with an introduction in the main hall before moving across to our newly refurbished sixth form block for the opportunity to discuss choices with subject teachers. It would be great to see you all there. We'll be sending out reminders nearer the time, as well as sharing information about our sixth form and why we think it is the ideal destination for the majority of our Y11 students. Our updated prospectus will be available to view shortly via our website. We'll let you know when that has been uploaded too.

Y7 Event

With all of our planning for open evening, it occurred to us that our existing Y7s missed out, with all schools opting for virtual open evenings last year due to covid. To put this right, we recently wrote to our Y7 parents inviting them to a quick tour of the school on the 19th October led by their own child. We are delighted that over 50 families have already signed up to this, and there is still time for others to let us know if they would like to come. It will not be a traditional open evening, but will provide a chance to see the school and meet the senior team and Head of Y7.





Y11 and Y13 Celebrations

Despite the restrictions of the pandemic last year, Mrs Darbyshire and the administrative team worked tirelessly to create events for students in Y11 and Y13 to allow them to celebrate their time together as part of our Stokesley School and Sixth Form community. A number of activities took place with the final celebration consisting of an awards ceremony and a prom-style party afterwards in our newly refurbished Sports Hall. This year's celebration will take place in a similar way. Whilst we hope that the situation around the coronavirus will continue to be improved, we want to plan events that we know we can deliver to avoid disappointment. We will be hosting the Y11 celebration assembly and Y11 prom on the same day, followed by a similar event for Y13 in the same week. Mrs Darbyshire is working with students from both year groups alongside Mr Wilson, Head of Y11, and Mrs Jeal, Head of Year for Y12/13, to ascertain exactly what each event will look like. The details are top secret at the moment - even from me! The team will write to you with the final details in a couple of weeks' time at which point it will also be launched with the students themselves. We will include the dates of the events in that communication so you can plan ahead. The events last year were exceptionally well received by our students and I am sure this year's will be equally so. Watch this space!

PE Update

We have been thrilled with the amount of students who have taken up the opportunity to participate in enrichment sports clubs in the last two weeks. Next week, Mr Beattie, Head of PE, will be writing to you about some other exciting opportunities that are coming up over the year within our PE Department. This information will also explain our expectations for students during their PE lessons.

LIFE

It's been an absolute pleasure to walk around school during lunch time and in the hour after school to see our students taking part in extra-curricular activities. From bullet journaling and creative writing, to dance and football, the students have embodied our school motto both in terms of their conduct and their commitment, and we are so proud of those who have signed up. It's never too late to sign up if your child would still like to join in with some of these activities. Use the parent app, or simply send them along to the club - we don't want anyone to miss out on the amazing opportunities that the staff in school are offering.

We know, too, that lots of our students have commitments and hobbies outside school, and they'll have an opportunity to tell us about these in a questionnaire coming out through tutor time soon - we want to be able to celebrate their achievements just as much as you do and knowing this will help us to do just that.

We have also launched our LIFE assemblies this week. LIFE assemblies are a little different to assemblies as you might remember them from your school days, and are centred around





discussion, allowing students to participate actively in the information that's being taught. They're basically whole year group versions of the weekly LIFE lessons that your child attends in tutor time as we hope that they, like the LIFE lessons, support you in helping your child to make sense of the world outside school both now and in the future.

Finally, from a LIFE point of view, we continue to share our LIFE bulletin with students on a weekly basis. The bulletin is shared on the student dashboard and is emailed to them on a Monday morning. Should you wish to see the bulletin yourself, you can access it via the school website under **NEWS**. For now, though, you can click [here](#) to see this week's bulletin (and the archive, should you so wish!).

Refugee Appeal

We have been blown away by the generosity of some of our families in the contributions made to the refugee appeal. The appeal runs until 15th October, and asks for donations of clothes, shoes, bags and blankets to support the national call to support the situation in Afghanistan. Donations can be brought into school by students, or can be dropped off at our main reception at any time of day. Please, help us to do our bit for what we are sure you will agree is a very important cause.

Why doesn't my teen sleep?

If you're having trouble getting your teenager out of bed on a morning there are several practical hints and tips that may help. On Friday, 15th October at 2pm, Mrs McGreal, Assistant Headteacher (SEND & Inclusion), and Mrs Wilkinson, Head of Pastoral Intervention, will be going through a little information to help you understand your teen's sleep and how you can help. You can sign up for this workshop by emailing SEN@stokesleyschool.org.

Staff responding to emails

We would like to remind all carers / parents that our timescale for responding to emails is 48 hours (not including the weekend or holidays) unless we state otherwise. If your enquiry is an urgent safeguarding matter or emergency, we will of course deal with it immediately but, otherwise, we thank you for your patience.

Taking care in our car park

Please can all parents take care when dropping children off and/or picking them up. We have observed parents driving up to the car park barrier and then reversing out onto the main road again when children are entering the site on foot. We know space is at a premium, but the safety of our children and staff should be considered at all times.





Wet Weather

The monsoon-like weather on Monday morning was a reminder to us all that our school site is a little problematic: we have multiple buildings and a lack of large indoor spaces. We are establishing a wet weather plan for breaks and lunches, but students will always have to go outside to access different lessons across the day. Thank you for helping us by making sure they dress appropriately - ideally with a waterproof coat with a hood, so they are not uncomfortably wet throughout the day.

Dates for your diary

Y6 Open Evening: Thursday 7th October (All students finish school at 2.20pm)

PD Day (students are not in school): Friday 8th October

Sixth Form Open Evening: Tuesday 12th October

Y7 families' visits to school: Tuesday 19th October

End of half term 1: Friday 22nd October at 3.20pm

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett,
Headteacher

