



**Friday 19th November 2021**

Dear Parents / Carers,

Here is our latest update about your school. This week, all students have been talking about kindness as part of anti-bullying week - our Y7 and Y10 students also carried out an act of kindness by writing postcards for staff who have made a difference in their lives at school. Staff love receiving the positive messages from students, and students thoroughly enjoy writing them. As J. M. Barrie said '*we should always try to be a little kinder than is necessary*'.

### **Quick Read**

- It's been Children in Need today and our student leaders organised a number of fundraising events for students and staff to participate in.
- Our 9th annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children will be held on Friday 10th December.
- We have refreshed and expanded our alumni which can be viewed on our website.
- We have a number of site developments underway, including a new outdoor seating area, a DfE bid for conditions improvement, and some redecoration.
- With your help, our refugee appeal was a resounding success with 136 bags of donations!
- Attendance has been improving notably over the last two weeks. With your help, we have stayed above national averages throughout the term so far. Every lesson counts.
- Please take care when dropping off and picking up children on Station Road. We've mentioned it before, but the bus drivers have raised further concerns.
- Ever thought of working in a school and achieving a better work/life balance through term time working? If so, we have a number of vacancies for support staff currently on our trust website, or due to be added.
- As the Jubilee Bank Holiday falls in the May half term, our Trust Board have nominated Tuesday 4th January 2022 as the observed day. Students will return to school after Christmas on Wednesday 5th January, not the Tuesday as previously advertised.
- We're supporting our local fire brigade by sharing their appeal for retained firefighters. See below for more information
- As always, there's some important dates for your diary at the bottom of this letter.





## Longer Read

### Children in Need

As you know, today has been Children in Need. Our exciting school events organised by the student leaders included the whole community being invited to wear something spotty or yellow, a whole school quiz, table tennis beat the teacher, cake stalls, students selling products they had made including earrings, pins, clay figures, ruffles alongside Pudsey Merchandise. It has been a wonderful day enabling us to appreciate what we have and what we can achieve when we come together as a community. Watch out for a follow-up news article which will give more information about the success of the day.

### Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 10th December we will be holding our 9th Annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas themed jumper instead of their shirt, tie and blazer and to donate £1 for doing so. All other uniform (trousers/skirts and shoes) are still to be worn. If your child chooses not to wear a Christmas jumper, full school uniform is required.

The jumper can of course be a purchased one, or the more inventive among our pupils last year came up with some fantastic additions to their normal school jumpers, including tinsel, baubles and even fairy lights!

Last year we raised over £700 for this great cause.

### Alumni

We have recently updated our website to reflect some of our brilliant ex-students from Stokesley School. You can view the page by clicking [here](#). If you are an ex-student and would like to be part of our alumni and share where life took you after school or college, or you know of anyone else who would, please get in touch with us via [admin@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:admin@stokesleyschool.org).

### Site developments

Following feedback from our students, we have secured funding from our trust to install a covered seating area outside for use at social times. Work will begin after Christmas and take a month to complete. We will share some pictures when it is done.

We are also in the process of submitting a bid to the Department for Education for condition improvement funding for a project covering curtain walling, doors and windows around our site; we will learn next spring/summer if we have been successful.





Finally, we are continuing our slow redecoration of the school, limited only by funds but not enthusiasm! Following our summer refurbishment of the extended café and old reception area, we have now decorated the English department communal area and are designing new displays to inspire the students.

### Refugee Appeal

Over the last few weeks, a dedicated team of staff and sixth form students have been sorting through the donations made by our school community for the refugee appeal. On Friday evening, we were visited by a volunteer from Care 4 Calais who collected an incredibly impressive 136 bin bags full of donations from our school. We have been absolutely blown away by the generosity of the school community with this appeal and want to send a heartfelt thank you to all of you who sorted through belongings and made the effort to send these things into school. Your donations will make a massive difference to the lives of others.

### Attendance

After a spike in Covid cases prior to and just after half term, attendance has really improved over the last two weeks. Y11, in particular, has had exceptional attendance - close to 100% in that time! The link between attendance and achievement is something we regularly remind students about and we are pleased that over the course of the last year, attendance at Stokesley School has been significantly above the national average, giving our students the best chance to achieve qualifications that will open doors now and in the future.

### Station Road Safety

I would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of keeping our entry and exit points clear, especially during pick up and drop off times. Station Road has always been busy at these times due to the number of students who are transported to and from school by car. We have seen an increase in the number of cars that are pulling into the entry and exit points, using them as a turning circle. This has created problems with the buses entering and leaving the school site, which in turn leads to congestion and poses health and safety issues. Please don't use the entry and exit points for dropping off or collecting students.

### Vacancies in school

We are currently recruiting for a number of support staff positions. This is a great opportunity to work in education, in our wonderful school, and will be attractive to people who are keen to work in a term time only role. Why not make a change and join us?! You can see the latest roles [here](#) and more will be added soon.





## Jubilee Bank Holiday

As the additional jubilee bank holiday falls in a school break, the Trust Board have specified a lieu day when students and staff will not be in school. So as not to interfere with the exams that take place around the time of the jubilee, this day has instead been added to the Christmas holidays. A separate letter from our CEO is attached along with this one and provides additional information; we are also updating our term dates on the website.

## Community Update

North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service are looking for retained (on-call) fire fighters to serve the town of Stokesley and surrounding areas.

The fire station is crewed by retained (on-call) fire fighters who live and or work within the area.

A retained (on-call) fire fighter is a person over the age of 18, who provides fire and emergency cover within their local community. They attend the same type of incidents and training as a full time fire fighter but work on a retaining fee, on-call basis with pay enhancements for differing activities attended.

If you are interested in becoming a retained (on-call) fire fighter and would like some further information, then please visit our website at [www.northyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk) or telephone 01609 780150. Or come along to our 'have a go' day November 27th 10am- 2pm

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 11th November:	Y13 Parents' Evening (Virtual)
Tuesday 23rd November:	Y7 Parents' Evening (Virtual)
Friday 26th November:	PD Day (no students in school)
Wednesday 8th December:	Y7, 10, 11 Christmas lunch
Wednesday 15th December:	Y8, 9 Christmas lunch
Friday 10th December:	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 17th December:	Term ends <b>at 12.35pm</b>
Wednesday 5th January:	Spring terms starts for all students

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Yours faithfully,

**Mrs H. L. Millett,**  
Headteacher

