



**Friday 17th December 2021**

Dear Parents / Carers,

We would like to thank you for all of your support this term. Your children are a credit to you, and - in a still challenging covid-affected world - fill our corridors and classrooms with laughter, kindness and endless positivity. We wish you all a happy and restful Christmas break, and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2022!

### **Quick Read**

- Students have earned a whopping 51,250 ambition points this term. We have held celebration assemblies (virtually) today to recognise this and more, as well as our live 'in it to win it' event with prizes for the whole family. We're focusing on respect in the new year: there will be more information to follow from Mr Burns when we return.
- 100 staff and students enjoyed a trip to the Metro Centre this half term. The theatre beckons next with 'Hairspray' in January and 'School of Rock' in March.
- There's lots of good news from our fantastic sixth form, from leadership in school to sporting excellence; read on below to find out more.
- Our annual charity 5-a-side match took place recently, raising a small but important sum for a good cause.
- Our new careers team is having an impact on careers education in the school; you can see what they are working on for the benefit of your children in more detail below.
- Last week Stokesley School held their first ever Sustainability Conference of the Parties with over 50 students in attendance.
- Having been given permission some time ago by Sir David Attenborough, we officially named our geography block 'The Attenborough Building' last week.
- Christmas Jumper Day was as festive as ever, and raised £511 for Save the Children.
- Christmas dinners went down a storm with the students (and staff) - a big well done to all of the catering team for all of their hard work.
- With your help, we have made another massive donation to the Middlesbrough Foodbank Collection.

### **Engagement and wellbeing**

Our students have had another term in which their outstanding behaviour shines through. 51,250 achievement points have been awarded by our staff in recognition of the positive achievements of our students. Y9 are currently out in front with 12,350 of those points.

The achievement points awarded only count for a proportion of the positive contributions made by our students. Small things like students being polite, holding doors open for others, thanking staff as they leave lessons, or when they are served lunch, are just a few examples





of the ongoing positive behaviour that is demonstrated by our wonderful students on a daily basis. Additionally, groups such as the student leaders (who have recently been involved in a number of interviews for new staff) demonstrate the fabulous engagement and behaviour of our students that is often commented upon by visitors to our school.

As you know, we are celebrating excellent behaviour and attendance this week with our achievement assemblies and 'in it to win it' prize draw today. After Christmas we are having a focus on being respectful, one of our core values, and Mr Burns will be writing to you in January to tell you a little bit more about that important initiative.

### **Social enrichment trip**

A hundred staff and students enjoyed the second social enrichment trip of the year with a Christmas shopping trip to the Metrocentre. Primark was raided, gifts were bought and it was great to see students socialising. Their behaviour was exemplary and they were a credit to the school. All staff agreed that it was a pleasure to be involved.

Theatre trips are already booked for next term with 'Hairspray' in January and 'School of Rock' in March.

### **Sixth Form News**

Now that some school-based COVID restrictions are no longer in place, it has been fantastic to witness so many of our sixth form students embracing the opportunities to develop their leadership and teamwork skills whilst supporting our younger students in their lessons. They have brought kindness, compassion and leadership and have shown our younger students what it means to be a leader in sixth form, whilst providing invaluable support to our teachers. The younger students look up to them and value their input to their lessons.

Fewer COVID restrictions have also meant that we have expanded the opportunities for our sixth form to join clubs, or even start their own. We now have well-attended clubs for 'Dungeons and Dragons' enthusiasts and our Y12 students are running a Japanese club!

This term has seen the start of a 6th form medicine club run by Y13 students, Anna Morris, Ed Jeal, Saira Akram, Jack Dixon, Ella Carr-Smith and Ben Barker. The students have learned about medical ethics and led discussions with interested Y12 students about how these impact upon a whole range of current health issues. The Y12 students were so enthused that they took over for one session, presenting a case themselves. Students also enjoyed taking part in a series of role play scenarios designed by Y12 students, where lower school students played the parts of patients and relatives and Y13 students practised breaking bad news to them. This was a great experience for all concerned. Y13 students have also had the opportunity to take part in mock medical school interviews with a doctor where they all received detailed feedback in preparation for their real interviews which are taking place soon. We wish them all the best of luck.





This term, Anna Morris in Y13 competed in the Yorkshire Regional Biathlon in Hull. Anna came first in her age group and as a result, has qualified for the British Schools Modern Biathlon in March 2022 in Bath. She has also qualified for The British Modern Biathlon championships in February 2022. The event involves a 1600m run and 200m swim.

We have a talented judoka, Joe Kirk, in our sixth form who has qualified for a place on the Diploma and Sporting Excellency Programme and still manages to study for his 3 demanding A levels. Good luck to Joe in the upcoming Scottish Championships.

We look forward to an exciting 2022 with our brilliant sixth formers who are ambassadors and role models for us all.

### Charity 5-a-side match

The annual Y10 charity 5-a-side took place this week, with 10-Demeter taking home the trophy for the 4th year in a row. The undefeated side took a 1-0 win in the final despite a spirited effort from 10-Hera in the decider. The students raised £50.25 for 2 charities, Cancer Research UK and Dementia UK and great fun was had by all!

### Careers Update

In November, we employed a new Careers Adviser at Stokesley School, Marissa Stirling. Mrs Stirling has a wealth of experience in industry, and has knowledge of recruitment and selection processes, as well as apprenticeships. This will really help to support our students. We also recruited a new Careers & Sixth Form Administrator, Faye Perry. Mrs Perry has experience in the NHS which will also help to support and advise students. Both staff are having a very positive impact on our students already.

The Careers Team are working hard to meet the Gatsby Benchmarks for good careers guidance and you can find out more about what these benchmarks are by following this link, should you be interested.

<https://www.gatsby.org.uk/education/focus-areas/good-career-guidance>

Recently we had the Aircraft Challenge (STEM event) for Year 9 students which was delivered by The Smallpeice trust and mentioned in the last newsletter. This was organised by Mrs Hope, Head of Physics, and was a great example of how Stokesley School delivers 'Careers in the Curriculum'.

A major focus at the moment is support for Year 11 students, which includes Post-16 options and personal guidance. We are working closely with Post-16 providers to ensure students have all the information they need to make choices for next year and beyond.

Work Experience for Year 12 students will take place in July 2022 (w/c 4th July). This has been launched to students and placement matching has started.





We will also be involved in the Rotary Club Technology tournament next year, and this is being organised for March 2022. There are also plans in place for National Careers Week (w/c 7th March) to support activities and encounters with employers for students. Please look out for our updates in the LIFE newsletter which is regularly shared with your child and on the school website.

Finally, discussions are taking place with specific industry leaders for careers talks to students in 2022 which will provide students with local labour market information.

### Sustainability Conference

Last week Stokesley School held our first ever sustainability Conference of the Parties with over 50 students in attendance. They used the UN sustainable development goals to structure the conference and students who attended spoke about what they have learnt in lessons or developed in extra curricular clubs. They then created their own sustainability statements of intent that they will work on for the next year before SSSCOP 2 in 2022!



### The Attenborough Building

With permission from the great man himself, our Head Boy and Head Girl revealed the new name for the geography and art block, 'The Attenborough Building', due to the tireless work he has done for the sustainability cause in his lifetime. We will be proudly displaying Sir David Attenborough's letter and signed photograph within the building.







### Christmas Jumpers

We loved seeing the students (and staff) in their festive Christmas jumpers last Friday, raising a total of £511 for Save The Children. Here are just a few of our favourites...



### Christmas dinner

Christmas dinners were served to students in Years 7, 10 and 11 last week, and Years 8, 9 and VI Form this week, and it was an absolute treat! Thanks go to our catering team for doing such a great job.





## Foodbank appeal

Mr Hamer, Head of Year 7, and the rest of the pastoral team would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to our Middlesbrough Foodbank Collection. We were overwhelmed by your generosity in what has been a challenging year for so many. Each tutor group collected items in their boxes and brought them down to our Café this morning where our Year 12 student leaders, Mrs Brosnan and Mrs Darbyshire packed it all up ready for collection. As you can see from the pictures, due to the large amount of donations, they had a big job on their hands!



## Dates for your diary

Friday 17th December:  
Wednesday 5th January:  
Wednesday 5 January:  
Thursday 6 January:  
Thursday 6 January:

Term ends **at 12.35pm**  
Spring terms starts for all students  
On-site testing/normal lessons  
On-site testing/normal lessons  
Y8 Parents' Evening

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Yours faithfully,

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

