



Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to this fortnight's parent and carer update at the end of our first week back. There's lots of information here about what is going on in your school, but please look out in the coming weeks for a special update dedicated to careers at Stokesley School too. Our new careers team is going from strength to strength and providing a wealth of opportunities for students to take the time to reflect upon and plan for their futures. Students in Y7-11 have heard all about how the careers team can help in assemblies this week, so do ask them about it at home.

Quick Read

- Thank you for completing our recent survey. The statistics were overwhelmingly positive and we have some clear areas to work on.
- Our virtual Y9 options event goes live on our website on Tuesday at 5pm next week.
- World Book Day was a huge success this week with lots of activities including a readathon delivered by staff throughout the day.
- Our LIFE curriculum continues to expand with a visiting workshop for Y10 on the 14th March looking at mental health and healthy relationships. We have also planned to work with The School of Sexuality Education to deliver age-appropriate assemblies with Q&A sessions for year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students in April. More information to follow.
- We have set up a 2-hour **LIFE** Study Club in our **LIFE** Hub running on Thursdays after school providing a quiet and supportive place to study for our students.
- Following student voice, we have set up an appeal to support the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Friday 11th March will be 'bring your spare change to school' day.
- Y11 and Y13 have now completed their formal assessments and are receiving detailed feedback from teachers. Over 60% of Y11 have received targeted intervention, and this programme continues.
- Y13 offers for university are still flooding in and we are offering support with applying for Student Finance. The process is launching with Y12 now too, as they turn their attention to next steps.
- Following parent and student voice, we have adapted our sixth form expectations to provide greater flexibility and independence.
- Eat your heart out Josh Coburn, our footballers are enjoying some fantastic success!





Longer Read

Parent Survey

Thank you to the parents who completed the parent survey recently sent out across our trust. We were pleased with the statistics that we collated from the responses, especially in areas we have explicitly worked on recently such as safeguarding (94% of respondents said their children feel safe at our school) and enrichment opportunities (96% of parents agreed their child has the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities). Over 90% of respondents were also positive about the teaching in school, the way the school is led and managed, how we deal with bullying, and that we ensure students are well behaved. Your additional comments were also extremely useful, and we are already working on:

- adjusting expectations in the sixth form (see below);
- improving the quality of information that supports our progress reports;
- developing a parental journey with increased engagement opportunities;
- changing our parent app to improve communication about your child.

We have also established a parent forum to support these changes and one meeting has already taken place. If you would like to join, please contact Mrs Darbyshire, Deputy Headteacher, via j.darbyshire@stokesleyschool.org.

Y9 Options Event

Our Y9 virtual options evening takes place next Tuesday. A link to our options website will be sent out to parents at around 5pm, with a link on our school website available too. The options website contains all the information you need about the options process: there is an introduction video from Mr McGreal and myself that explains a little more about the process, and that would be a good place to start. There are links to subject pages with information about all the subjects we offer, and videos from subject leaders explaining more about each course. The deadline for entering choices online is Friday 19th March, with a page on the website explaining how to do this, and a video to help too. If you have any questions please use the email addresses in the videos to get in touch with subject leaders, or any general questions email options@stokesleyschool.org. We hope you and your son/daughter finds the information useful to help you make the correct, informed choices for study in Y10 and Y11.

World Book Day

On Thursday 3rd March we celebrated World Book Day in school. All students were given a voucher entitling them to either a free book (see www.worldbookday.com for details) or £1 off the price of any book. We also held a number of activities in school to mark the day, including craft activities in the OLC. All students took part in the Readathon which involved teachers reading parts of a mystery story at the start of each lesson. Students were very keen to get to lessons on time so they could hear the next part! In tutor time, everyone really enjoyed watching The Masked Reader videos, where some members of staff disguised





themselves and read short extracts from books. Students had to work out who the staff member was, the book they were reading and the author. The videos were really fun to watch and showed that reading for pleasure is still enjoyable even for adults!

Enrichment through the LIFE curriculum

Due to covid restrictions, it's been more difficult over the past term to invite visitors into school to talk to our students. We're excited to announce, however, that we've got two fantastic enrichment activities lined up over the next few months from which a wide range of students in school will benefit.

On 14th March, year 10 students will be treated to a production and theatre workshop by The Invisible Man theatre company. Commissioned to examine mental health and what constitutes a healthy relationship, the play - Inside Out - follows several young people in their mid-late teens to see how the world they live in impacts on their wellbeing. Parents/carers of year 10 students have received a letter this week with a little more information about the event.

A recent survey into the quality of sex education in schools highlighted the fact that only 35% of children in the UK would rate the provision in their school as 'good' or 'very good', and we're determined that we'll be a part of that statistic. On 26th April we will also be visited for a full day by The School of Sexuality Education, a company which supports young people and those working with them to ensure access to a complete, inclusive and comprehensive sex(uality) education.

During the day, year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 students will attend age-appropriate assemblies which will give them information, but also opportunities to discuss the topic and ask questions in a safe environment. We will, of course, write to you closer to the time with more specific details about what students in each year group will be covering so that both you and your children know what to expect.

LIFE Hub Study Club

In our bid to ensure that we're providing clubs that meet the needs of *all* of our students, we are starting the 'LIFE Hub study Club' for our year 11 students who would like a space to revise in school. The LIFE Hub will be open - and staffed - between 3:30pm and 5:30pm every Thursday evening for students to complete any work or revision that they have. Working alongside others is a great way to get motivated with revision, and we hope to see as many of our year 11s as possible taking up the opportunity.

Students are welcome to bring snacks and, if they like to work to music, to bring their headphones too. We look forward to seeing them there.





Ukraine Appeal

Earlier in the week, we wrote to you to explain that we had produced a **LIFE** lesson which informed students about the current situation in Ukraine. We have been overwhelmed by the empathy that they have shown and, as a direct result of their requests, have set up an appeal which will take place next Friday.

UKRAINE APPEAL

Ukraine's children are living in terror. They face ever-present danger – of being killed, injured or suffering severe emotional distress.

The war is forcing children and families to shelter in basements and bomb shelters to escape explosions.

7.5 million Ukraine children are now in danger.

Amid freezing temperatures, power cuts and food shortages, every day is a struggle to survive. Families are forced to flee their homes.

They need urgent help accessing water, shelter, and food.

Friday 11th March

Bring your spare change to school day!

It might be 2p, it might be £2, but with *over 1000 students* in school we can make a *real difference* if we all chip in!

We Save the Children Will you?

Following your incredible contributions to the Afghan appeal and at a time when we know the cost of living is increasing dramatically, all we're asking is that students **bring their spare change into school on Friday 11th March**. There is no expectation at all that students will bring in large amounts of money but if you're able to support them to bring something in then, through Save the Children, we'll be able to provide school-in-a-bag or hygiene kits to those families most in need.

Y11 and Y13 assessments and intervention

Following the conclusion of the formal assessments, Y11 and Y13 are now receiving their feedback from each subject area and being given specific advice from their teachers on which areas require their focus. On Monday, Mrs Darbyshire will share with parents/carers and students the schedule for intervention sessions for Y11. So far this year, over 60% of the year group have received targeted intervention for one or more subjects. We will be





continuing with our targeted interventions but will also be running drop-in sessions for a number of subjects including English, mathematics and science. There will also be other key updates for both year groups. Please look out for this correspondence.

Y13 offers and Y12 preparation for university

The offers for university places are still flooding in, with many of our Y13 students now ready to choose their firm and insurance offers. Although we are sure many of them know where they would like to go, this decision does not need to be made until 9th June so there is no need to rush into anything. The students will be receiving further guidance on accepting their offers, and also how to apply for student finance this half term. The application window for this has now opened, but we'll be talking students through how to do it, and how the loan system and repayments work in the next few weeks during tutor time.

We will start the process with our Y12 students this half term too, getting them to start researching into courses and universities through an online platform called Unifrog. We'll be encouraging them to start gathering evidence in order to complete their personal statement as well, talking them through how to write these and what they should be doing to stand out from the increasingly competitive crowd!

Updates to sixth form expectations

Following feedback from students and parents we have made a few changes to our expectations of students in our sixth form, including when they can leave site and how their independent study periods will work. This has been explained to the students in assembly today, and a separate letter from Mr McGreal with further details has been sent to parents/carers.

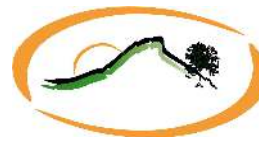
Sporting highlights

The all-conquering Y10 footballers continue to make headlines as they have taken a giant step towards the county cup final with a comfortable 4-0 win against Bootham School from York. Alex bagged a hat-trick whilst Jimmy rounded off the scoring to complete a successful afternoon's work for Mr Nassau's team. The side have scored 18 goals without reply in the last 3 rounds and the team are feeling confident ahead of an April semi-final.

Our success at football doesn't end there either, because there are two more teams in the quarter finals of the county cup still to play and another girls' semi final in the county cup to play as well!

We hope all of our footballers have been inspired by Josh Coburn, a former student of Areté Learning Trust (Richmond School) who scored the winning goal against Tottenham for Middlesbrough FC on Tuesday night in the FA Cup. We had some tired students (and staff) on Wednesday morning, that's for sure!





Dates for your diary

Y9 Options website goes live to parents
Bring your spare change to school day (Ukraine Appeal)
Y10, Y11, Y12, Y13 PRP reports sent home
Y10 Parents' Evening
Y10 Inside Out workshop - **LIFE**
Y11 Parents' Evening (Invitation only)
Visit to see 'School of Rock'
End of Term at 3:20pm
Training Day (no students in school)
Summer term begins

Tuesday 8 March
Friday 11th March
W/C 14 March
Tuesday 15 March
Thursday 17 March
Tuesday 22 March
Thursday 31 March
Thursday 7 April
Friday 8 April
Monday 25 April

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett,
Headteacher

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