



Friday 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of the first month of the academic year, there is already a great deal going on in our school - emphasised by the bumper edition of our letter this week. It was a delight to meet so many of you at our recent parent/carer after school events and we have also enjoyed getting to know our new students as they settle into secondary school. Our numerous building projects are drawing to a close and, as promised, there are some updates and images below so you can see a sample of the work that has taken place.

Quick read

- Thanks to successful bids to the Department for Education and our trust, we have undertaken some significant improvement work to our site over the summer holidays.
- Our immense offer of extra-curricular clubs and activities is due to launch on October 3rd!
- Work experience for Y12 will take place in July next year; we are always on the lookout for local employers to support us with this important event.
- Student leaders have had leadership training this month, are on the fundraising trail again, and have been presented with their special honorary badges this morning.
- We've held four bespoke parent/carer events in the last two weeks, thank you for taking part and sharing such positive feedback.
- It is not too late to sign up for the parental support evening if your child is in Y11. It takes place next Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:45pm.
- Y13 have had two pathways assemblies about post-18 options, including UCAS and apprenticeships.
- Y12 are settling in well and took part in 'retro games' this week. If the work is building a little, there is information below about how to get support.
- Sixth Form open evening for students thinking of joining us next year takes place at 5pm on Thursday 13th October.
- Y6 open evening takes place from 5pm on Thursday 6th October. Students in Y7-Y11 will finish at 2:15pm on this day.
- Our OLC has seen a record number of student librarian requests. It also has some new furniture, new displays and a reading ladder challenge has been launched with students.
- Our Green Group are carrying on their fabulous work and have launched a Spring Bulb donation request so that we can introduce some Spring colour to our school and improve biodiversity.
- At the end of this letter there are some safeguarding updates on Operation Encompass and the Dark Web to help you to understand more about these issues and, in turn, discuss them with your child(ren).

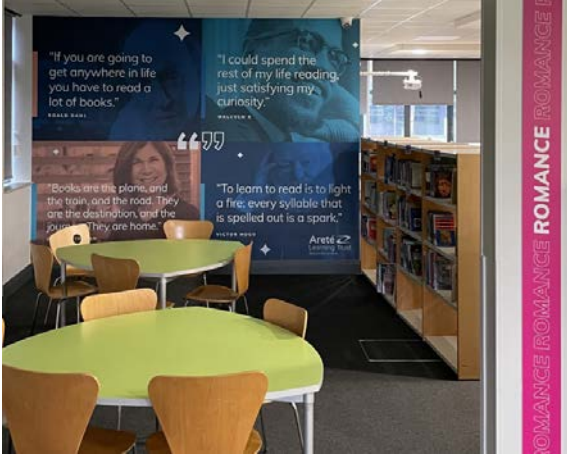







Longer read

Improvements to our site

We were delighted to successfully bid for money from the DfE and our Multi-Academy Trust to carry out a number of improvements over the summer. These included: new windows, curtain walling and doors to our main hall, DT block and Youth Centre; a way signage and inspirational signage scheme; resurfacing of our netball and tennis courts; enclosure of our dangerous and poorly designed maths balconies and re-flooring in key areas. The school continues to look better and better as we create an environment that inspires our learners and staff to be the best they can be!

	
<p>Inspirational signage in the library</p>	<p>Way signage in the sixth form</p>
	
<p>Inspirational signage on the KS4 yard</p>	<p>Maths balcony enclosures</p>



Inspirational signage in communal areas



New flooring in English and science



New fire doors and windows in the hall



Way signage



Inspirational signage in geography



The newly resurfaced courts





Clubs and activities: the launch!

We're now in the exciting position of being ready to launch our clubs and activities booklet for this academic year. The booklet can be accessed [here](#), and is being shared with students in tutor time over the course of the next week. There is also a timetable of clubs and activities (accessible [here](#)) for students so that they can easily see what's on when. This will be displayed in form rooms and also around the school. We will be encouraging as many students as possible to attend a weekly club: the benefits are countless, and it also means that they can tick off a challenge on their **LIFE** passport!

Clubs will start on **Monday 3rd October** and, if they want to attend, all students need to do is to turn up to the first session of a club where they will be added to the register.

Please support us by encouraging your son/daughter to attend a club. If you would like any more information about these clubs or what they involve, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Fox (l.fox@stokesleyschool.org) who will be more than happy to help.

Year 12 work experience

Last year we ran a very successful work experience programme for our year 12 students. We had positive feedback from both students and work placements and have some great success stories including some students who have been offered permanent jobs and others who have been offered further placements. Engaged with effectively, this really is an experience that can open doors for our students.

This year's work experience will take place during the week beginning 10th July 2023. There will be an initial information evening for year 12 students and parents/carers on Monday 17th October so that we can get the ball rolling in plenty of time.

We are always on the lookout for new placements to offer during work experience, particularly in sectors such as the NHS, dentistry, veterinary and STEM. If you or anyone you know could potentially support us here, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our careers advisor, Ms Stirling, who will be able to talk you through what this would entail (m.stirling@stokesleyschool.org).

Student Leadership

Mrs Darbyshire held the student leader training day on Friday 9th September. Students participated in training for prefect duties alongside developing an action plan for the year ahead. One of the key priorities is to raise funds for the relocation of our Place of Peace. So far, the students have raised over £1000. If anyone would like to donate funds for this project, envelopes can be left in reception or students can give the money directly to student leaders in the dining hall at breaktime next week. Our Place of Peace was first established 25 years ago in December. Mrs Darbyshire and the team are hoping to re-open the new area





in December with the final planting being completed next Spring. Thank you in advance for your support. Head Girl, Daisy Ruffell and Head Boy, Jonathon Richardson, addressed Y7 students in assembly last week to invite them to apply for the post of student leader. Student leaders and prefects will now be identified by a badge. The badge presentation ceremony took place this morning; students were very proud to receive them.

Parental journey and stepping up events

We would like to thank parents/carers for attending our events over the last two weeks. Mrs Darbyshire and the extended senior leadership team have hosted four events in the last two weeks. These are new events to our calendar as part of our parental journey from Y7-13. The first two were for KS5 to support parents/carers whose children are in Y12 at our 'Stepping into KS5' and then for parents of children in Y13 who are making their plans to apply to university and apprenticeships. This week, we welcomed our Y7 parents/carers to receive advice and guidance on supporting their child as they 'step into KS3' which was followed by a tour around the school, where our Y7 students loved showing off their school and the classrooms they are taught in. Finally, we hosted our 'Stepping into KS4' event for our Y10 parents/carers. We are thrilled that 100% of all parents/carers who attended the events and have completed the feedback form felt the events were informative and helpful.

Y11 Parental Support Evening

On Wednesday 28th September, we will be hosting our Y11 Parental Support Evening. If you haven't signed up yet - it is not too late! Parents/carers of students in Y11 will have received an invitation letter from Mrs Darbyshire. Please click on the link on the letter to register your attendance. Numbers are limited to two parents/carers for this event which includes group talks by our core heads of faculty as well as a group talk in the hall.

Year 13 post-18 pathways

Our year 13 students have had two assemblies focused on their options post-18. The first was on UCAS (the Universities and College Admission Service) and how to register and start an application. All year 13 students should have registered on UCAS by now and be working through completing the initial required details - we have twice weekly tutor sessions for students to spend time completing applications and writing personal statements.

The second was delivered by Ms Mannion, our trust careers lead, on apprenticeships and degree apprenticeship options. Students were shown how to search for available roles and how degree apprenticeships work and can be found. If students require any further support or guidance then we can arrange a 1:1 careers meeting with Ms Mannion. Students should speak to Mrs Jeal, Head of Year 12/13, to arrange this.





Year 12

Our new year 12 students have settled in well and are getting into the swing of studying A Levels now. They definitely seem to be enjoying the use of our bistro in particular! In their first week they took part in our first "retro games" activity where the competition between forms was fierce. This is something we do once per half term with our sixth form students, and the winning form each term also receives a small prize.

Students may find the work starting to build up a little now. It is important they use their planners to not only record work to be done, but plan to use their time effectively too - habits we encourage in tutor time. If you are worried or concerned about anything please do not hesitate to contact us using sixthform@stokesleyschool.org.

Sixth form open evening

Our sixth form open evening takes place on the evening of Thursday 13th October, starting at 5pm with a talk from Mrs Millett and Mr McGreal and followed by the opportunity to learn more from subject teachers about our sixth form courses. Our updated prospectus will be available shortly, and will also be available as an interactive document on our website with links to videos built in. We look forward to seeing our year 11 students and their families at the event in a few weeks time. Furthermore, if you know a Y11 in another school who is considering their post-16 options, we are very happy to welcome them too!

Y6 open evening and early finish for Y7-Y13

Our Y6 open evening takes place on Thursday 6th October. There will be a talk at 5pm in the main hall, which will also be repeated at 6:30pm. In between talks and up to 8pm, parents, carers and prospective students can walk around our school learning more about the different subjects and joining in with interactive activities. Students in Y7-Y13 will finish at 2:15pm to allow the site team the opportunity to prepare for the evening event. The bus companies have been informed.

OLC Updates

Year 7 have been enjoying coming into the Open Learning Centre at lunchtime and exploring the wide range of books, magazines and board games that we have on offer. Mrs Bailey has had a huge number of fantastic applications for student librarians, and will soon be selecting some students to help her keep the OLC in good working order. We have also added some comfy seats where students can relax with a good book!





Reading Ladder challenges are also taking place. Students are being encouraged to read from a range of 20 'reading for pleasure' books which can all be borrowed from the OLC. There are rewards being offered for bronze, silver, gold and platinum milestones which can be achieved along the way.

Finally, Rowan - a fantastic Y11 student - worked hard last summer term to design and paint a mural in the student entrance to the OLC. I think you will agree, it looks incredible!



Improving biodiversity

Following on from the successful tree planting undertaken last academic year, the student-led Green Group will be continuing on their mission to improve biodiversity around the school site this autumn. As such, we are running a spring flowering bulb collection point in school. We will gratefully take spare spring flowering bulbs of any type, which will then be planted around the school site to provide some lovely spring colour. Donations can be dropped off in reception, or brought up to the geography department.

Safeguarding updates

Operation Encompass:

Trust between the local police and the public is essential within any community and we feel it is important that we do our part to support this process and to help make our students feel safe. We continue to work and liaise with the neighbourhood PCSOs and School Community Police Officers on various projects within school to build relationships and raise awareness around different subjects.

Another part of our work with police is Operation Encompass. This is an initiative that enhances communication between the police and schools where a child is at risk from - or





has experienced - domestic abuse. The purpose of the information sharing is to ensure schools can enhance their safeguarding of children: by knowing that the child has had this experience, the school is in a better position to understand and be supportive of the child's needs and possible behaviours. Operation Encompass will complement existing safeguarding procedures. Schools are normally informed via email the following day after an incident has happened to allow them to support the child and families.

CEOP/The Dark Web Explained:

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) works with safeguarding and child protection partners across the UK and overseas. It protects children from harm online and offline with a focus on child sexual exploitation and online protection issues.

[The Dark Web Explained](#) is a new resource made available for professionals and parents and carers in response to research, which found that many professionals and parents and carers do not understand the Dark Web and feel unequipped to talk to a young person about it should the need arise. Please follow the link at the start of this paragraph for further information.

Dates for your diary

27th September	-	Y11 GCSE Fieldwork trip to Redcar
28th September	-	Year 11 Parental Support Evening 5:30pm - 6:45pm
6th October	-	Open Evening - Y6 going into Y7: 5:00 - 8.00pm
6th October	-	School closes at 2:15pm for all students
7th October	-	Normal school day
13th October	-	Sixth Form Open Evening - Y11 into Y12: 5:00pm - 7.00pm
24th - 28th October	-	Half Term holiday

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

