



Friday 9th September

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year. Today, we pay tribute to the Queen. During tutor time, students will be discussing her life and reign as well as watching a short clip that summarises her service to our country and the wider commonwealth. During the mourning period, we will also deliver a special **LIFE** lesson to explore her legacy in greater depth.

In other news, we are delighted to inform you that our students achieved fantastic results at both GCSE and A-Level this summer. In fact, many of the headline figures were notably above national averages and the same or better than the grades we awarded as a centre during covid last year! This, on top of our recent Ofsted inspection report, illustrates how we are making great strides as a school and improving the quality of education for our children every day.

Over the summer we have also had a significant amount of work done in school to make the learning environment even better for our young people and staff: look out for some updates and images in the next parent letter.

Quick Read

- Class charts has launched! Please make sure you have downloaded the app so you can keep track of your child's progress in school.
- We are launching a **LIFE** passport which will have a series of challenges for students to complete which contributes to their personal development.
- As **LIFE** lessons are such an integral part of our curriculum, we are now assessing students' contributions using our ambition ladder to make sure they are getting the most out of these lessons and becoming more confident speakers.
- So far, we have 45 clubs and activities ready to go for this term! Read on for more information on some of the new and exciting things on offer. We hope you can encourage your child to take part - if they need any encouragement that is!
- There's lots of exciting and informative enrichment events coming up this term.
- The **LIFE** Hub will be open - and staffed - between 3:30pm and 5:30pm every Monday evening for students to complete any work or revision that they have.
- Anti-bullying is a significant focus for us this year. You can read more below about how we intend to continue to go from strength to strength in our approach to stamping out bullying, encouraging students to speak out against it, and in how we support students who have been targeted. We need your help too, so please sign up for our parent working party - details below.



Class Charts

As you are aware, we have begun the new term with a new system to keep you informed on a daily basis about your children and how they are performing in school. Many of you have already logged into class charts, I would highly recommend the app rather than a web based version.

We have had inevitable teething problems introducing a significant new piece of IT software, and have learnt a lot this week in resolving small issues. Mr Burns will be sending out an invite to parents who have not signed up to class charts at the end of next week, but we encourage you to get logged on as soon as possible to keep tabs on what is happening at school.

LIFE updates

We were really proud to read, in our Ofsted report, recognition of the opportunities given to our students through the **LIFE** curriculum both in and out of lessons. We plan to have another great year and, to this end, have a few updates for you here as well as some details about enrichment events coming up over the autumn term.

LIFE passport

This academic year we are introducing a **LIFE** passport to all students in years 7-10 in order to encourage them to participate more widely in school life. The **LIFE** passport can be viewed [here](#) and is, essentially, a list of 10 challenges for students to complete over the course of the year. Students will record their achievements in a booklet stored in their planner. We hope that, like us, you can see the huge value in students striving to achieve the challenges on the passport and that we can enjoy celebrating their successes together.

Ambition data

You may have noticed that, as part of the **LIFE** passport, students are expected to be 'motivated' or 'exceptional' in their weekly discussion-based **LIFE** lessons at each PRP point. As **LIFE** lessons are such an integral part of our curriculum here at Stokesley school, we have made the decision to record students' ambition data in these lessons as we do in their other curriculum subjects. The **LIFE** Ambition ladder can be found [here](#).

Clubs and activities

We are in the process of putting together our list of clubs and activities for the academic year and the total list of clubs is currently at 45! We have some new clubs for this year, including knit and natter, a music journalism club, an opportunity to restore a rare aeroplane, fantasy football, a science club, a sewing bee, a scrapbooking club and photography for beginners. Once we have worked out where and when each club will happen, the booklet will be shared



with students (as well as yourselves as parents/carers) so that they can choose which ones they would like to attend. Well over half of our students regularly attended at least one club last year, and we hope to increase this figure this year - please support us in encouraging your son/daughter to attend a club as the social and emotional benefits of doing so are numerous! We hope to get clubs up and running in October.

Enrichment events

We have lots of exciting enrichment events planned for this term, the details of which can be found below:

28th September - Revision skills workshops for year 11 throughout the day

14th October - Restart a Heart for year 8 (CPR workshops)

18th October - School of Sex Education workshops for year 11

19th October - School of Sex Education assemblies for years 7-10 and the sixth form

30th November - The Prime Agency for years 7 and 8 (performance and workshop)

Study club

Our final **LIFE** update is about our **LIFE** Hub Study club, which starts on Monday 19th September.

In our bid to ensure that we're providing clubs that meet the needs of *all* of our students, study club will run on a weekly basis for anyone who would like a space to complete their independent work or revise in school. The **LIFE** Hub will be open - and staffed - between 3:30pm and 5:30pm every Monday evening for students to complete any work or revision that they have. With all of their independent work set on a Monday, coming along to this club could possibly mean that they get all of their work out of the way, freeing up the rest of the week for other things that make them happy!

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.



Our study hub in school



Anti-Bullying updates

As a school community, our definition of bullying is “**repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe**”. The recent Ofsted report highlighted some of the fantastic work that our **anti-bullying** ambassadors have already achieved. They said that “Bullying is rare. Pupils who are anti-bullying ambassadors work with leaders to tackle bullying. However, a small minority of pupils are not always comfortable reporting bullying when it occurs. Some victims of bullying would like better support.” We have listened to our student and parent voice and this year are proud to be developing our own **anti-bullying** initiative **#ChallengetoChange**, highlighting the importance of not being a bystander and, instead, having the confidence and wherewithal to be an upstander.

The year ahead

Our anti-bullying policy will be reviewed by current anti-bullying ambassadors to ensure it is fit for purpose. Assemblies will be delivered to all students so that they can understand the 3 core values of our campaign:

- understanding what bullying is;
- knowing how/where/who to report it;
- having confidence to challenge it.

We will be reviewing our systems of reporting and the support that we offer to targets of bullying and their families. We will also be reviewing the work that we do with perpetrators to ensure they are able to understand why their actions are wrong and how they can be supported to change their behaviour. Staff will be given additional support and training in recognising and dealing with bullying. We will be recruiting additional **anti-bullying** ambassadors to join the team from our student community, and it would be great if you could encourage your son/daughter to apply. Finally, we will be asking for parents/carers to be involved in a working party to look at what we do as a school. The first meeting will be on Thursday 29th September between 5:30 and 6:30pm. If you would like to be part of this please email anti-bullying@stokesleyschool.org to express your interest.



Branding/Social Media

You can follow our school instagram account @stokesley_school for **anti-bullying** tips on how to support your child if they are being bullied and to keep up to date with the progress of our campaign. **Anti-Bullying** is part of our **LIFE** curriculum and is something we want everyone to get onboard with. We have combined our **LIFE** logo with the Diana Award logo and our campaign slogan **#ChallengetoChange** to ensure that we recognise and embody Princess Diana's words "Young people have the power to change the world!".



Understand it.



Report it.



Challenge it.



Dates for your diary

13th September	-	Stepping into KS5 Event (Y12) - 5pm - 6pm
13th September	-	Further Steps for Year 13 Event - 6.15pm - 7pm
17th September	-	Stokesley Show
20th September	-	Stepping into KS3 Event (Y7) - 5pm - 6pm
21st September	-	Stepping into KS4 Event (Y10) 5pm - 6pm
28th September	-	Year 11 Parental Support Evening 5:30pm - 6:45pm
6th October	-	Open Evening

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher