



Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's that open evening time of year where we throw open our doors and welcome the next generation of students as they start to plan for Y7 and Y12. The Y6 open evening took place last night, and sixth form open evening is on Thursday 13th at 5pm - we do hope as many of our Y11 parents, carers and students as possible can join us for this important and informative event.

Quick read

- Our anti-bullying initiative #Challenge to Change is underway. Assemblies have taken place, an agreed definition of bullying has been shared and the policy has undergone a rewrite by students.
- Students in Y12 have been asked to choose from 5 different options to give something back to the school and develop themselves personally: supporting in lessons; supporting with a club or activity; running their own club; buddying a Y7 student; or offering something different of their own choice.
- Last week, we ran our inaugural study skills workshops for Y11 students. This involved working with a couple of forms at a time teaching useful revision tips and techniques.
- Just a reminder that we have a study club on a Monday evening between 3:30 and 5:30pm for *any* student in school who would like the opportunity to complete their independent work.
- We're hosting a work experience information evening for parents/carers of Y12 students. It takes place on Monday 17th October between 6 and 7pm, and is the first important step in the work experience process.
- We are delighted to announce that Fraser Allan (Y12 student) has been awarded an Arkwright Scholarship.
- Drama updates - we raised £400 for charity through our end of year production and are gearing up to launch this year's soon. Our Y9 and Y10 monologue performance evening also takes place soon, on Wednesday 2nd November.
- Y11 parents can follow a useful link below to an informative podcast about careers including apprenticeships.
- Catering updates - don't forget we offer a pre-order service to beat the queue or collect lunch to take to a club or revision session. Students are sent a google form and can ping it back to the catering team with their cold food order.
- Our Japanese club has started, and is run by our brilliant sixth form students.
- Y12 German students across the trust recently took part in an online event linked to a film they will study later in the year.
- We have a safeguarding update below about social media influencer Andrew Tate who is popular amongst some students but whose views are controversial and often inappropriate.





Longer read

Anti-Bullying updates

Our **anti-bullying** initiative **#ChallengetoChange** is underway. Two of our Y11 prefects and several of our **anti-bullying** ambassadors have been working over the last few weeks, scrutinising and updating our **anti-bullying** policy so that it ties in with everything we want to achieve. Our updated definition of bullying, as a school, is **“repeated negative behaviour that creates an imbalance of power, and that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe.”**

Our first interactive **anti-bullying** assemblies have taken place this week, led by Mrs Brosnan. Students have been explicitly taught what bullying is and how we define it in school. Amongst other things, we highlighted key words in the definition of bullying and explored their meaning:

Repeated - done or occurring again several times in the same way.

Negative behaviour - behaviour that is not accepted by society.

Intended - planned or meant.

We also informed students of important policy updates, such as the difference between harassment and bullying, a difference which we also feel that it is important for you to understand as parents/carers.

Bullying and harassment are similar. They are both about:

- power and control;
- actions that hurt or harm another person physically or emotionally;
- an imbalance of power between the target and the individual demonstrating the negative behaviour;
- the target having difficulty stopping the action directed at them.

The distinction between bullying and harassment is this: when the bullying behaviour is based on a protected characteristic, that behaviour is then defined as harassment. Harassment doesn't need to be repeated behaviour.

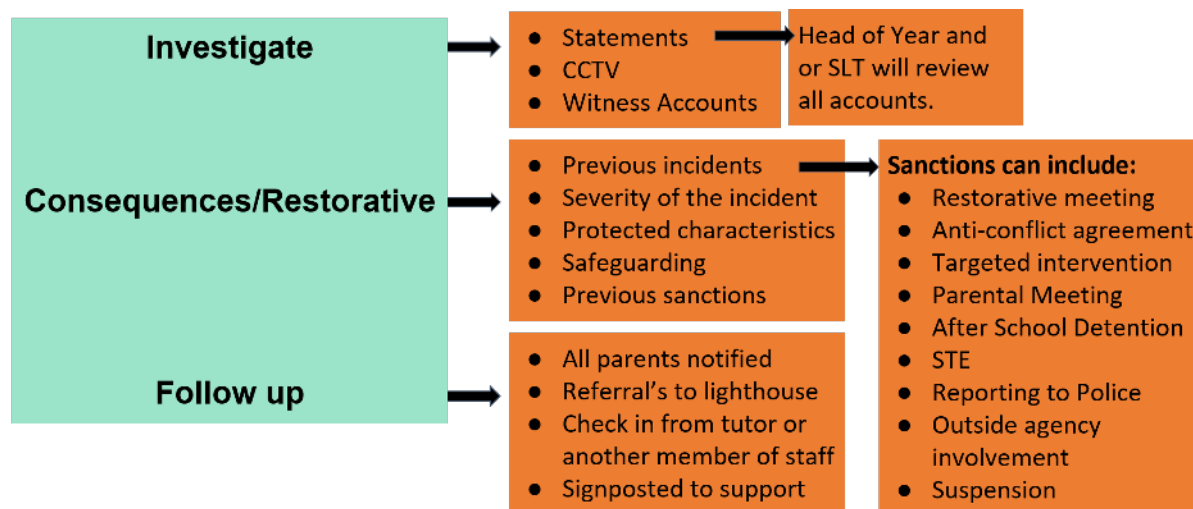
Anti-bullying ambassadors and our Y11 prefects have designed a poster to be featured in the main corridor, reminding one another of the effects that bullying behaviour can have, and reminding them of ways that students can show kindness and respect in school. This will be revealed at the end of our anti-bullying week in November.

In the last update we asked for parents/carers to be involved in a working party and it's great that we have a couple of parents expressing their interest in this already. The meetings will be held 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.





The next step for us is to deliver the next strand of our **anti-bullying** campaign during the week commencing 17th October. We will be teaching students how to report bullying behaviour and we will be sharing the new visual flow chart (published in the policy) below to help them understand the process of reporting incidents.



Sixth form service

Last year we had a core group of sixth form students who supported in the lower school in various different ways. Having spoken to both staff and students about the positive impact that this had on everyone involved, we are extending the sixth form service, and are encouraging all sixth formers to support in some way. To launch this, Mrs Fox delivered an assembly to our Y12 and 13 students focused on altruism and the benefits of 'giving something back'. Students have been asked to choose from 5 different options: supporting in lessons; supporting with a club or activity; running their own club; buddying a Y7 student; or offering something different of their own choice.




If you are the parent/carer of one of our sixth form students, please talk to them about the choice that they have made and encourage them to take the opportunity by the horns! As well as being great for the school and the students that they support, it's also going to be something that helps them to develop their communication and leadership skills, and which will eventually look great on their personal statement or CV.



Year 11 study skills workshops

This year we ran our inaugural study skills workshops for Y11 students. Over the course of one day, Miss Wright, Mrs Fox and a group of 5 sixth form students saw all 202 students in Y11 and gave them the opportunity to learn about - and try out - four key revision strategies which will help them in the run up to their GCSEs. Students learnt about mind-mapping, making flashcards, knowledge organisers and how to make effective revision timetables and were also given a goodie bag of revision materials to start them off on their revision journey.

It was great to see students engaging with the session and taking the messages seriously, and equally as great to see some of our own sixth form students leading the session and gaining in confidence over the course of the day.

Students were given a revision guide and a pack of revision resources to get them started.	Mrs Fox and Miss Wright kicked off each session with a general talk about study skills.	The students were then given 4 mini workshops, delivered by year 12 and 13 students, on individual revision strategies.
		

Study club - a reminder!

Just a reminder that we have a study club on a Monday evening between 3:30 and 5:30pm for *any* student in school who would like the opportunity to complete their independent work. Study club takes place in the **LIFE** Hub and is staffed so that students can ask for help or support if they need it. Mr Bailey, one of our teaching assistants, is also attending study club on a weekly basis to offer additional support. We look forward to seeing as many students there as possible!

Work experience information evening

If you're a parent/carer of one of our Y12 students, you will have received a letter home asking you to book your place on our work experience information evening. Taking place on Monday 17th October between 6 and 7pm, this event is the first important step in the work experience process.





At this meeting you will:

- fill in the initial consent form;
- look at placement options;
- hear from Y13 students about their experience;
- hear from employers who have hosted Stokesley students;
- be reassured about safeguarding and insurance process;
- have the opportunity to speak to the careers team about any potential worries or concerns.

If you haven't done so already, please reply to your invite so that we know who is attending. If you require more information about this event, please contact our careers advisor Ms Stirling (m.stirling@stokesleyschool.org)

Arkwright Scholarship

I am delighted to announce that Fraser Allan (Y12) has been awarded an Arkwright Scholarship. Fraser worked really hard in Y11 to complete a fantastic application, prepared well for his aptitude test, and must have impressed during his interview to secure this funding. Fraser is one of only 714 students in the country who were invited to interview. This prestigious title of an Arkwright Scholar receives funding of £600 over the two years of A Levels studying at Stokesley School, and can be used to support the funding of components and materials to complete technical projects or enhance curriculum work.

Alongside this benefit Fraser will be paired with a mentor - usually an engineer from a local company- who can help with work experience, career planning and with curriculum projects and networking. This is a fantastic opportunity for Fraser and he also has the chance to get involved in more events run by Arkwright throughout the year.

For more information on Arkwright Scholarships, please see the link [here](#) or speak to Mrs Dent in school. Anyone in Y11 who has a passion for engineering, computing or technical design and is committed to studying maths, physics, or computer science at A Level is eligible to apply.

Drama department updates

Thank you so much for coming to support our School Production of 'We Will Rock You'. On the back of the production, £400 was donated to Ukraine and AIDS charities. The new school production will be announced in late November and promises to be another fantastic show. Clues to what the show is will start appearing after half term.

The annual monologue performance evening will take place on Wednesday 2nd November, starting with Y9 students performing scenes from 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark and then followed by the Y10 GCSE drama classes performing the hard hitting plays 'Girls Like That' and 'Monsters'. It is expected to be a fantastic evening, showcasing our incredibly talented





students. The event is free to attend but donations will be taken to go towards the school production.

Careers support for Y11 parents

If you're a parent of a Y11 student and would like to know more about options post-16, our careers team would like to support you by sharing a link to an informative parent podcast and resource pack.

This podcast series looks at next steps for your child and considers all options, including the financial implications of these. We know that next steps can be tricky to navigate and, whilst we support your child in school, we believe that this podcast will provide additional support and information for you at home.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/the-parent-perspective-podcast/>

Catering updates

The catering staff have very much enjoyed getting to know our Y7 cohort - it's so lovely to see so many of them enjoying a school dinner. As well as our café and canteen service, did you know that we offer an order service? All students are sent a google order form each morning and these orders can be collected by students at the beginning of lunch. Some students do this to take their lunch to clubs or activities, or some simply do it as a way of beating the queue. We particularly encourage students entitled to a free school meal to make use of this service if they are joining lunch time groups so they don't miss out. We also offer a free breakfast service every morning between 8.00am - 8.40am. Remember, keeping your child's parent pay account topped up also gives them more options at break and lunch!

Japanese club

Japanese club restarted this week with five keen, new members. Our Y13 Japanologists (Henry and Jack) led the introductory session and were impressed to hear about the students' prior knowledge of Japanese language and culture. We look forward to next Tuesday and more discussions about writing systems, manga and words that are strangely similar to English! New members are, of course, always welcome.

Cross-trust sixth form German

Our Y12 German students took part in a cross Trust online session led by the British Film Institute which analysed 'The Lives of Others', a German film which the students will study closely later this year.





The online session offered our students the opportunity to engage closely and actively in key themes and motifs of 'The Lives of Others', while learning and analysing key film language, in line with the exam specifications. The event was conducted in German and all students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Safeguarding updates

Andrew Tate is a social media influencer who had over 4 million followers on Instagram before being banned from the site for his infamous offensive and misogynistic comments. Schools are being warned to listen out for students talking about the controversy around his comments. Please [click here](#) for the latest report from Sky News. We will continue to monitor the situation in school and ask if you could support us by doing this at home too. If you do have any issues or concerns, please get in touch with Mrs Myers, our school safeguarding lead (j.myers@stokesleschool.org)

Dates for your diary

13th October	-	Sixth Form Open Evening - Y11 into Y12: 5:00pm - 7.00pm
24th - 28th October	-	Half Term holiday
7th - 18th November	-	Y11 formal assessments
14th November	-	Y10 Geography fieldwork trip to Newcastle
18th November	-	Y10 Geography fieldwork trip to Newcastle
24th November	-	Y13 Parents' Evening: 3.30 - 6.30pm
25th November	-	PD Day (no students in school)
Wk comm 28th November	-	- Y7,8 & 9 PRP1 reports sent home
Wk comm 5th December	-	- Y10, 12 PRP1 reports sent home
8th December	-	Y11 Parents' Evening: 3.30 - 6.30pm
9th December	-	Christmas Jumper Day
16th December	-	End of Term

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

