



Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

Today, and in the preceding week, we have recognised remembrance with our students. I have delivered assemblies about two incredible stories of two very different soldiers from World War Two. In addition, at 11am today, the entire school paused for a live virtual remembrance address followed by a captivating rendition of The Last Post by Lula in Y12 and our observance of the two minutes' silence.

'We will remember them.'

Quick read

- Our Sixth Form students have been offered a fantastic opportunity to volunteer to work with a charitable organisation to restore a rare vintage aircraft to enable it to fly again.
- Applications to join our sixth form in September 2023 are now open! The application form is available on our website.
- Y11 formal assessments are currently underway with the first week running very smoothly.
- Our internal deadline for Y13 UCAS applications to be submitted in the UCAS Hub ahead of the equal access deadline is Friday 18th November.
- On Wednesday this week we had a visit from 2 ambassadors from 'big 4' accountancy firm PwC to talk to our sixth form students about the different pathways they offer for school leavers.
- We had a busy week for literacy last week as Halloween is always an excellent time of year to share a scary story.
- In October, we celebrated Black History Month and the OLC held a writing competition where students were invited to write about an inspirational person in black history.
- As part of our expanding student service, our Y7s are committing to looking after our school environment by becoming official litter pickers!
- As part of our **LIFE** curriculum, students in Y12 and Y13 are all asked to commit to supporting in the lower school, and one of the options is to buddy a Y7 student. Buddies will be able to support a variety of school-related things, and will generally just be someone in school who is looking out for them and has their back.
- Students who study drama in Y9 and Y10 showcased exciting and varied performances last week at our special evening event.
- We have scaled back some charity fundraising activity given the cost of living crisis but there is still plenty going on, including: a foodbank collection; Children in Need; Christmas jumper day; and the continued development of our memorial garden, the Place for Peace.
- Dates for your diary for the remainder of this term are at the bottom of the letter.





Longer read

Aircraft Restoration Project

Our Sixth Form students have been offered an opportunity to volunteer to work with a charitable organisation to restore a rare vintage aircraft to enable it to fly again.

Students will work closely with a group of volunteers with professional skills ranging from aviation, woodwork, teaching, scouting and engineering to STEM outreach. Middlesbrough Tools Workshop charity have also kindly volunteered their time and equipment. Students will learn the skills required to clean and restore the engine and rebuild the fuselage. The students will be supervised by the volunteers from the charitable organisation but must adhere to all guidance given to them regarding their safety whilst working on this project, particularly with respect to the equipment that they will be trained to use and the fact that the workshops are on a working farm.

The leaders of the project have been fully DBS checked.

The project will take place on a farm just outside Great Ayton on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm until 7pm. Participants will need to make their own arrangements for getting to and from the farm. Should your son/daughter be interested in joining the rota for this project, they should contact Mrs Hope, Head of Physics, via a.hope@stokesleyschool.org.

Year 11 Sixth Form applications

Just a reminder for all Y11 parents that applications to join our sixth form in September 2023 are now open. The application form is available on our website, in the 'Sixth Form' menu. The deadline for applying is the last day of this term, Friday 16th December.

Y11 Formal Assessments

Y11 formal assessments are currently underway. The first week has run very smoothly - we have been very proud of the students' conduct and efforts so far. The assessments conclude on Friday 18th November. Some students' attendance drops off after two weeks of assessments but we would urge you to ensure your child is in attendance in the weeks after the assessments as this is when vital feedback is given to students about their progress and areas for development. Mrs Darbyshire has arranged a reward for the year group on Monday 21st November in recognition of their hard work.

Y13 UCAS applications

Our internal deadline for UCAS applications to be submitted in the UCAS Hub ahead of the equal access deadline is Friday 18th November. This is to ensure that the sixth form tutor team have time to collate information and write their teacher references before they are submitted to UCAS. If students fail to meet this deadline then their application will not be immediately prioritised for processing. Students applying for apprenticeships or degree apprenticeships are encouraged to also apply to university via UCAS as a backup option should they be unable to find a suitable pathway.





Y12/13 careers talk with PwC

On Wednesday this week we had a visit from 2 ambassadors from 'big 4' accountancy firm PwC to talk to our students about the different pathways they offer for school leavers. This was a really informative session: students discovered the different types of careers PwC offer (it's not all about accounting!) and the different available routes from their apprenticeships to their flying start programmes. They also found out a little more about the recruitment process and what types of activities they should expect during interviews.

Applications for these are either open now or opening soon and if any Y13 students are considering an application then support is available from our careers and sixth form teams should it be needed.

Halloween Literacy Events

We had a busy week for literacy last week as Halloween is always an excellent time of year to share a scary story. Students in Y7-11 were read a chilling tale throughout their lessons on Halloween. Teachers spent the first ten minutes of each lesson reading part of 'The Hitchhiker' that ended with a twist that had students (and some teachers) on the edge of their seats.

We also invited Y7 to attend our first 'Stokesley Spooky Stories' event. Students were treated to ghost stories read by members of staff, while our fantastic Y9 volunteers - Sam, Kyle and Aidan - hid around the school in Halloween costumes to set the mood as the Y7s moved from room to room. Both of these events were designed to promote reading for pleasure throughout the school.

Black History Month

In October, we celebrated Black History Month and the OLC held a writing competition where students were invited to write about an inspirational person in black history. There were some really interesting entries, especially from Mr Fox's Y7 English class, who put a huge amount of effort into their research and writing. The winners of the competition were Ruby and Samuel (both Y7), who wrote about Rosa Parks and Wilston Samuel Jackson respectively.

Y7 Student Service

As part of our expanding student service, our Y7s are committing to looking after our school environment by becoming official litter pickers! This week, they have had a **LIFE** lesson (accessible [here](#)) in which they learnt about the impact of litter both in our school and in the world as a whole, and they also learnt the term social conscience.

Over the course of the year, all year 7 students will do a shift of litter picking around the school site during period 4. Working in a group of three, they'll be equipped with gloves, a high vis jacket, litter picker and bin bag and will follow a route around the school site. Not





only will it be good for students to feel that they're using their social conscience and giving back to the school, but they'll also be able to tick off one of the boxes on their **LIFE** passport and be a step closer to completing it! We appreciate that they - as all students - have missed a lot of education due to the pandemic, but we feel very strongly that we have a responsibility to develop them as a person, not only academically but also as good citizens and as members of a community - another key facet that many students lost out on during the national lockdowns. They will miss one period 4 lesson over the course of the rest of the year.

Students will be informed by their tutor of the date for their slot, and will be reminded on the day by the year 8 student runner that it's their turn.

Buddying scheme

As part of our **LIFE** curriculum, students in Y12 and Y13 are all asked to commit to supporting in the lower school, and one of the options is to buddy a Y7 student. Buddies will be able to support with independent work, with the logistics of school life, with friendships, will encourage them to attend clubs and activities and help them to figure out which ones are best for them, and will generally just be someone in school who is looking out for them and has their back. Meetings will happen once a week: students will be collected from tutor time by their buddy and then taken to the **LIFE** Hub for their meeting. Sixth form buddies have been trained up and are really looking forward to starting their meetings.

If you are a parent/carer of a Y7 whose child has been identified as being part of the programme, you will have received a letter from Mrs Fox last week. We do, however, have more sixth formers who would like to buddy up with younger students, so if you would like to sign your Y7 child up for the programme, please be in touch and we will get them linked up (l.fox@stokesleyschool.org).

Y9/10 Drama Evening

Many of you were thrilled to attend school last week to see your child participate in the Y9 Monologue Evening followed by the Y10 drama performances. Students who study drama in Y9 and Y10 showcased exciting and varied performances demonstrating outstanding performance skills across the evening. Mrs Kent and Mrs Darbyshire were very proud of all the students' efforts - an excellent evening was had by all!

Charity Fundraising Activities Update

Student leaders were hoping to support four charity activities for this half term. Considering the current cost of living crisis, we have arranged for our Christmas talent show and fair to move to the end of February to become a spring celebration and fundraiser instead. Due to the trust moving to a cashless system wherever possible, student leaders have also had to





amend the way we are raising funds. Rather than bucket collections, we politely request that parents/carers and staff to donate through ParentPay. We will be supporting the following charity events:

Foodbank Collection - Students will be invited to bring tinned and dry packaged items in for our foodbank collection. Mr Hamer, Head of Y8 supported by Deputy head Boy Wilf and one of our prefects, Rosie, will share further communication about who we are supporting and which items are allowed to be collected in the next week. Tutors will receive a box in their tutor room and items can be brought in from Monday 21st November until Monday 12th December.

Children in Need - This will take place on Friday 18th November. We will be inviting students in the main school and sixth form to wear silly socks - these can be normal socks which a student has decorated or just some spotty, yellow or any silly socks. Students in the sixth form are also allowed to wear spotty or yellow tops on that day too! Mrs Darbyshire and our finance team have arranged for us to have our own ParentPay which goes directly to the Children in Need fund. The link is

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=8620>

Christmas Jumper Day - On Friday 9th December we will be holding our 10th Annual Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Pupils and staff are invited to wear a Christmas themed jumper instead of their shirt, tie and blazer and to donate £1 for doing so (on ParentPay). All other uniform (trousers/skirts and shoes) are still to be worn. If your child chooses not to wear a Christmas jumper, a full school uniform is required.

The jumper can of course be a purchased one, or the more inventive among our pupils last year came up with some fantastic additions to their normal school jumpers, including tinsel, baubles and some even had fairy lights!

Last year we raised over £700 for this great cause.



Place for Peace - Thank you to those parents who have supported this fundraising so far. To aid the relocation of this important memorial garden in school we have raised a total of £956 to date! Students have completed sponsored walks, silences, and bake sales to name but a few of the activities. We hope to update you with the next steps in the relocation of our garden just after Christmas.





Dates for your diary

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| 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 (<u>no students in school</u>) |
| W/C 28th November | - | Y7,8 & 9 PRP1 reports sent home |
| W/C 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 (<u>School closes at 12:35pm</u>) |

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

