



15th May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be able to share my first Headteacher's Update with you at the end of a very busy but rewarding first month as Headteacher. I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and determination of our young people which I have witnessed when touring lessons and during conversations with them whilst on duty. It has been wonderful to begin the process of getting to know the students and our talented staff team, and I am excited about leading the next chapter of Stokesley School's journey.

Today marks the start of the external assessment process for our students sitting GCSE and A Level examinations. For many this is an anxious time, particularly following the turbulence of the past few years, but it was wonderful to see the buoyant mood of the students this morning as Mrs Darbyshire went through the final preparations with them ahead of their first examinations.

All of our staff team will be focussed on providing support to our students in exam year groups to enable them to perform at their best during these examinations, but if your child requires any additional support please do contact their year leader in the first instance to discuss any concerns.

Many of you will now be aware that after 14 years of dedicated service to our school, Mr McGreal will be leaving us at the end of the summer to take up his new post as Headteacher of Outwood Academy Bydales. We wish him luck in this new chapter and look forward to celebrating his time here at Stokesley School and Sixth Form College later in the term.

Following a highly competitive recruitment process I am delighted to be able to announce that Dr Claire Reed will be joining us to take up the post of Assistant Headteacher in September 2023. Dr Reed is currently Director of Student Progress at Rossett School and we look forward to welcoming her to our team for the coming academic year.

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## Safeguarding

We recognise that vaping is less harmful than cigarettes, but it is not risk-free and poses some health hazards through the presence of nicotine, which is addictive, and toxic chemicals. This includes those with asthma and respiratory conditions who may be affected by the vapour.

At our school, we take seriously our duty to promote the wellbeing of all our students and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school's policy is that of a fully smoke-free environment, which includes vaping. We view this commitment to creating a smoke-free environment and developing student's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking and vaping as an important part of our efforts to keep children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk. In addition to the dangers of nicotine, we are aware of four students from two local schools who have required hospital treatment because the vapes they used contained the synthetic drug spice (this has been confirmed following police tests in one case, and the second is a suspected case that the police are awaiting confirmation of).

Through LIFE lessons and display boards, the school educates students on risk-taking behaviours and the harmful effects of smoking and vaping and aims to empower them to be able to make informed decisions. The school aims to prevent the uptake of smoking and vaping among students, and encourage and support those who smoke or vape to quit. Help can be found [here](#).

Government legislation makes the sale of vape products to under-18s illegal – this means the school is duty bound to prohibit their use on site by students. Smoking and vaping are not permitted in any part of the school's premises, including outside any entrances and exits, and outside of the school where students are wearing uniform. The school's rules have been made clear to all students and they are aware that if they are in possession of a vape in school, they are suspended from school. We operate a zero tolerance approach to vaping.

Vape pens, liquid and other related products are banned items on the school premises – the school will exercise its right to search for and confiscate such items. Students caught vaping or carrying related products will be sanctioned in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and could also include suspension – a copy of this is available on the website.

The school welcomes the support of parents in its commitment to educating pupils on smoking and vaping and ensuring that these items are not brought into school.

## Modern Foreign Languages

Congratulations to all our MFL students who have completed their speaking exams, both for A level and GCSE. These performances were the product of months of hard work by our students, and teachers were all impressed with how they handled themselves throughout.





Just a reminder that the remaining revision schedule for the Listening, Reading & Writing papers is on the Google Classroom as well as on the Phased Dismissal document.

## Careers opportunity

Year 10 Stokesley School students have been invited to attend college taster sessions on Monday 3rd July to experience further education and college life. This particular event is happening at Darlington College, is free of charge, and is designed to inspire young people and help them to prepare for their next steps.

Students will get the chance to explore their selected courses with practical and engaging workshops via a taster timetable as well as being given the opportunity to speak to college tutors and see the links to different career pathways.

If your child is interested in attending this event, please email Miss Stirling directly at [m.stirling@stokesleyschool.org](mailto:m.stirling@stokesleyschool.org). Please note that we have forty places available and this will be on a first come first served basis. For more information, please click [here](#).

## Diary Dates:

Thursday 18 May	Y12 Geography fieldwork trip
Friday 26 May	Sixth Form Leavers Assembly
Monday 29 - Friday 2 June	Half Term Holiday
Thursday 15 - Saturday 17 June	Y10 Mathematics Trip to London
Wednesday 21 June	Y9 Graduation event: 5pm - 6.30pm
Friday 23 June	Y11 Leavers Celebration: 9am - 11.30am
Monday 26 June	Y11 Prom
Wednesday 28 - Thursday 29 June	Sixth Form Induction Days
Monday 3 July	Y13 Prom
Wednesday 5 July	Y8 Achievement Celebration: 5pm - 6.30pm
Friday 7 - Sunday 9 July	A level Biology trip
Wednesday 12 - Friday 14 July	Y6 Transition Days
Monday 17 July	Y10 Parents' Evening: 3.30pm - 6.30pm
Tuesday 18 - Friday 20 July	School Production - 7.00pm

Yours faithfully

Mr. M. Fenwick  
Headteacher

