



September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful summer break and I am pleased to be able to welcome students back to our school and sixth form for the start of a brand new academic year. I am pleased to be able to provide you with information about a number of important and exciting updates regarding the school.

### **Results**

This summer's results were very strong and it was a privilege to be on hand on both our A-Level and GCSE results days to see our students receiving some excellent grades. As noted in my press releases, the school and sixth form continue to perform above national averages and importantly the overwhelming majority of students have managed to secure their next steps in education on the back of their results. In the face of some uncertainty around lower, we were delighted with the outcomes and very proud of our students who were so ably supported by our talented teams of teaching, pastoral and support staff.

### **Site Improvements**

Given the current focus in the press I am firstly pleased to report that Stokesley School is not one of those impacted by closures due to the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete.

Over the summer holidays a lot of work has been undertaken to improve the site. This includes:

- important ICT infrastructure works to support the improved use of technology across the curriculum
- resurfacing of our Astroturf pitch
- removal of storage containers
- and painting and decorating works in various areas of the school

I am also pleased to announce that over the summer Arete Learning Trust and the Department for Education have signed off on a significant investment to build a brand new drama studio providing our students with a superb space to develop their drama, dance and performance skills. Work will begin later this term and I will provide you with more information as the project progresses. We are very grateful to our colleagues in the Trust team who helped to secure this funding and our colleagues from Richmond and Northallerton who helped to complete the extensive ICT work over the summer.





### New members of our staff team

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>
Mrs. Briggs	Teacher of Science
Mr. Dinsdale	Attendance Liaison Officer
Mr. Durham	PSA
Miss Hare	Teacher of Maths
Mrs. Hamza	PSA
Miss Norton	GTA
Miss Pottinger	Cover / Teacher
Dr. Reed	Assistant Headteacher
Mrs. Smith	HLTA Alternative Provision
Mr. Alavitorshizi	IT technician

### Changes to roles for existing staff team members

<u>Internal changes</u>	
Mrs. Dumphy-Brook	Head of Year 7
Mrs. Weschenfelder	Attendance Officer
Mrs. Jeal	Director of Sixth Form

### A new behaviour policy and support structure

The ethos and culture of the school is fundamental to its success and having reviewed the behaviour policy in the summer term we have worked together with our local governing board to produce a new policy that will better serve our students and community.

The new **Positive Conduct Policy** is designed to ensure that students are frequently rewarded for exhibiting the behaviours and attitudes that contribute to an ambitious, successful and safe school community whilst ensuring that students who are struggling to meet the schools expectations are assisted to improve their behaviours through a clearly defined system and support structure.

It has been widely reported in the [media](#) that behaviour in schools across the country has been significantly impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic and Stokesley School is no different. Whilst behaviour in the school remains good we have noticed an increase in negative behaviours and in the number of students who are struggling to self-regulate their behaviours. In a school where every child matters it is very important to ensure that each child receives the targeted support and intervention that they need, but also in recognising that every child matters we cannot allow any one child's behaviour to be detrimental to the learning and safety of others or the good order of the school.





Our new policy will focus on securing further improvements in behaviour by firstly, and most importantly, ensuring we catch all children being good as frequently as possible. House Points will be awarded to students who meet our expectations on a weekly basis for 100% attendance, no lates, having brought all of their equipment and receiving no negative points for the calendar week. House points will also be awarded to students for effort, attainment and attitude to learning in lessons and around school. House Points will contribute to a number of rewards opportunities in school including a rewards trip each year for students who achieve 500 House Points and meet other criteria including no suspensions.

A greater emphasis on our House System will see students rewarded and recognised for their involvement in inter house competitions, for attending clubs or being involved in school initiatives and events as well as for their own personal development both inside and outside of school. A new set of House Ties will recognise students who have shown a commitment to their own personal development and to the school.

Expectations of students' behaviour will be clearly displayed around the school and students will be regularly reminded about those expectations in assemblies, LIFE lessons and in each of their subjects. We understand that at some point most students will make a mistake which could include forgetting a piece of equipment or an issue with uniform. To reflect this our new system will only issue negative behaviour points when some of the more minor issues become repeated. You will still be issued with a notification, titles as a concern, as a parent but you will notice that the first instance carries no negative points. We also understand that a week is a long time in the life of a child and so only the events of each calendar week will contribute to a detention which is issued when a student reaches five negative points in a week. The school will no longer hold detentions on a break and lunchtime but after school detentions will remain in place each day. All parents and carers will receive 24 hour's notice of a detention through the Class Charts system.

To support students who struggle to meet our behaviour expectations we are also introducing two new elements into our support system. The first is our "Reflect" process. Staff members will work with students to understand the reasons for the behaviour that has led to time in the Reflection Room and will consider additional support and strategies to break cycles of poor behaviour and to prevent further escalations. Whilst in the Reflection Room students will continue to work through content related to each of their timetabled lessons. Students that fail to attend an after school detention will spend the full day in our Reflection Room the following day. Students may also be placed into the Reflection Room at the discretion of senior members of staff for serious incidents or whilst serious incidents are being investigated.

The second element is our new alternative provision, "Engage". The Engage programme will run from our Youth Centre and will help to support students who are struggling to engage in mainstream lessons. This facility will support students with barriers to learning such as behaviour, mental health and medical or physical barriers to participation in certain activities. Engage replaces our current Lighthouse provision but builds upon the work by utilising and





expanding our existing staff team and external specialists. Students referred to Engage will have timetabled sessions in this provision. Any students wishing to seek support from the staff team can use the existing "worried or concerned process" to request support. Students will be reminded of this process in assemblies in the first week back. Parents or carers can discuss accessing support from this service with the relevant year leader in the first instance.

I am always keen to hear feedback from parents on new initiatives or systems and we will take the opportunity to survey parents on the impact of the new positive conduct policy later in the academic year. Full details of the new policy can be found on the school website or via this link

<https://www.stokesleyschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Stokesley-School-Positive-Conduct-Policy-September-2023.pdf>

Relationships are vital in successful schooling and I look forward to working with you, in partnership, to support your child to be the best they can be.

Yours faithfully

**Mr M. Fenwick**  
Headteacher