



6th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and your child is refreshed and ready for the year ahead. It is with great excitement and anticipation that we embark on this journey together, nurturing the growth and development of your children as they navigate their way through this crucial stage of their education. Year 10 is a time of significant progress, both academically and personally, and I assure you that our dedicated team of teachers and staff are committed to providing a supportive and stimulating environment for your child's success. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure a year filled with learning, growth and achievement for all our Year 10 students. Together we can make this a memorable and productive year for your children.

Following Mr Fenwick's letter, informing you about the changes to our behaviour system and the Positive Conduct Policy we have developed, I wanted to give you some practical reminders for the year ahead.

Uniform and Equipment

As students return to school it is important to ensure they have all of the correct uniform and equipment for the term. Following what has been, I hope, a great summer, please ensure that children come to school following our uniform expectations: no jewellery, false or painted nails and wearing plain black shoes. All of which are an important part of our expectations. Expectations of both our uniform and equipment are set out on the school website and can be accessed via this link.

<https://www.stokesleyschool.org/key-information/uniform/>

Students will occasionally misplace items of uniform or equipment. We would ask that parents clearly label any items of clothing and bags where possible. As the weather is due to remain warm I would like to remind parents that students should bring their own water bottles to school which can be filled up before and after school, at break times and lunch times. We have water available across the school site, and students filling up reusable water bottles is not only good for the environment, it also reduces the number of visits required to the water stations.

Class Charts

Class Charts is an excellent way for you to keep track of your child's performance at school. We are confident that students will react positively to the Positive Conduct Policy and accrue lots of House Points that you will want to celebrate with them. Some parents have fed back that constant notifications have put them off using the app. If this is the case for you, I would encourage you to turn off notifications in your settings, rather than delete the app from your phone. I know from parental feedback that the majority of you find the app very useful and informative.

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Toilet Use and Permitted Lesson Exits

You will see alerts in Class Charts for use of the toilet during lessons. Whilst this will appear red on your feed, no negative points will be accrued. This will allow us to monitor in lesson absence more closely and will help pastoral support assistants, who monitor Class Charts activity, to identify those students outside of lessons who have received permission from their teachers to go to the toilet or have other reasons for leaving the lesson.

Parent Pay and Cashless Catering

We have had a significant change made to our IT systems this Summer. This has led to an issue in communication between Parent Pay and the cashless catering system. Whilst this problem is being resolved, please let me reassure you that we will ensure all students are fed in the usual way, simply, it may take several days before we can transfer the balance from your Parent Pay account to the catering account.

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance, i.e. above 96% and students not being late to lessons remain key targets for all of our students. As a school we have demonstrated outstanding levels of attendance over the last two years in comparison to the local and national averages. We have just celebrated fantastic exam results which are in no small part due to the fantastic attendance of our last Year 11 and 13 students. We will continue to impress upon our students the importance of maintaining a high level of attendance and I ask for your support in reinforcing that message.

Students Being Collected from School

Please can I remind parents that on any occasion during the school day that your child needs to be collected, students are only permitted to leave school with contacts who are listed on our management information system (Sims). The main parent/carer must telephone school to confirm if anyone else other than the contacts we hold are collecting their child. Please ensure the details we hold in school are always kept up to date. Any amendments should be emailed to admin@stk.areté.uk. When collecting students, we ask for you to please enter the reception area in person at the front of the school building to confirm who needs to be collected.

I am looking forward to an outstanding year ahead, with lots of individual and collective achievements to celebrate.

Thank you for your continued support.

Your faithfully

Mrs Metcalfe
Head of Year 10

