



6th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and been able to take advantage of the long summer days.

Y11 are now entering a crucial time in their school lives. The next few months will quickly pass and your child will be sitting their GCSE exams before we know it! To that end I want to reassure you that we will be providing advice and support to help them achieve their potential, but there are things that you could help your child with too. It is never too early for your child to start reviewing their work and to look through earlier notes to help reinforce their learning. Encouraging them to revise can reduce panic and anxiety so the sooner they start, the calmer they will be prior to any exams. It's also a good idea for them to get plenty of sleep and exercise.

If you do have any concerns please get in touch with your child's tutor in the first instance.

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.





Toilet Use

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. It is merely a way for me, you as parents and tutors, to ensure that learning time isn't being compromised with multiple visits to the toilet during the school day.

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 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 zero lateness 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.aretelr.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.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Bailey
Head of Year 11