



November 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Headteacher's Update

This has been a very productive month at Stokesley School with lots of positive news stories to share with you below. Our students continue to break records in relation to the number of house points achieved with the grand total to date standing at over 250,000! We're incredibly proud of our students' positive attitudes and the support they are given by staff to catch them being good whilst being the best they can be. We already have 14 students who have reached 500 house points. This milestone is important as it is one of the criteria that allows them to access the rewards trip in September, and we are certain to have lots more students joining them on that list before Christmas. We are delighted to be able to share some opportunities for you to visit the school over the festive period, and in particular we are looking forward to welcoming our community to our Christmas Showcase which will provide an opportunity for you to see the work of talented students in the creative and performing arts. I hope you can join us!

Uniform Reminder

As the colder months approach we have noticed a growing number of students coming to school with additional layers underneath their blazers. We will be holding assemblies to remind students of the expectations next week, but please could we ask for your support in ensuring your child has a suitable winter coat and that they do not come to school wearing hoodies or other clothing under their blazer. If they wish to wear a plain t-shirt or thermal top under their shirt that is acceptable but any hooded tops or clothing under their blazer that is not school uniform will be confiscated for students to collect at the end of the school day. Students should also be in full school uniform including school ties and school shoes (no trainers) with a suitable school bag for their equipment. .

PTA meeting - 15 January 2024 at 6.00pm

I am also delighted to announce that we will be starting up our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings again this year. As Headteacher I will be joining the meetings and providing a brief head update about the school at each meeting. This is a great opportunity to be involved in the life of our school community. The aim of the PTA is to make the school a better place for children to learn by bringing together parents, teachers and children to raise funds and strengthen the school community. Money raised is usually spent on things that the school budget does not cover, but all of the projects funded by the PTA add extra value to experience for our students. If you would like to find out further information or would like to confirm your attendance please contact stokesley@arete.uk.



Student Leadership and Children in Need

We have been delighted to receive another influx of Student Leader, Prefect and Senior Prefect applications across this half term. The student leadership body is exceptionally proud to have organised a number of charity fundraising events. All students in Y7-10 participated in our 'Walk a Mile to Make a Child Smile' campaign where students walked a mile to raise awareness of the great work that Children in Need accomplish with the funds they raise. Students were also given the opportunity to make a donation of any amount if they were able to do so. Additionally, our student leaders baked and sold over two hundred cakes! In the next few weeks, we will also be organising our annual foodbank appeal and a hat, scarf and jumper collection to donate for various charities. Watch out for our student leader update with all our news which will come out just before Christmas. The student leader body would like to thank you for your ongoing support of all of our ventures.





Drama Department News

On Thursday 9th November all of Y9 and 10 drama took to the stage performing extracts from 'Burying your Brother in the Pavement' and 'Two'. For many students this was their first time performing and it was wonderful to see so many of them performing with confidence and full commitment to their roles. Particular highlights include Nat and Isla's fantastic Mr and Mrs Iger scene, Freya's dance routine and Max and Amy's portrayal of Tom and Mr McPhee. It was so lovely to see so

many people in the audience supporting our young people. Our next performance opportunity is happening on Friday 1st December, where a number of our students will be performing at the Stokesley Christmas Lights Switch on - Stokesley Sparkles. We are delighted to have been asked back after last year so come along from 5.30pm to watch some wonderful students sing and get you in the Christmas spirit.

National Support Staff Day

Last Friday we celebrated National Support Staff day. It takes a whole team to make a school a safe and happy place for children to learn. School support staff help children learn, keep children safe and healthy and make sure schools run smoothly, and we wanted to celebrate those members of our school team who are so vital to the effective running of our school. Staff and students alike were given the opportunity to complete a thank you form for anyone from our support team who had helped or supported them in any small way. We had a fabulous response with 246 'thank you' forms received and these were distributed to staff on Friday morning.

🎵 🌲 Creative Arts Christmas Showcase 🎵 🌲

We are delighted to announce that our Creative Arts department is putting on a Christmas Showcase on Tuesday 19th December. The showcase will run from 6-8pm and will involve performances from students in music, dance and drama as well as exhibitions of student work from art, photography and media studies. As well as watching performances, you will also have the opportunity to boost your Christmas spirit with some carol singing. We also have a licensed bar for the evening so that you can enjoy our showcase with a festive glass of mulled wine too! Please come along to support the event, celebrate our students' successes, get excited for Christmas and - most importantly - to help us build the confidence of the young people that we work with. Look out for a letter with more details coming soon.



Reminder from Vaccination UK about Nasal Flu Consent

Please ensure that you have completed the Flu consent form using the link below so that your child can be vaccinated in school. Please note, if you have already completed the consent form, you **do not need to fill in another form**. The portal will **CLOSE 48 hours** before the North Yorkshire Immunisation Team is due into school.

<https://yny.schoolvaccination.uk/flu/2023/northyorkshire>

Berlin Trip

Earlier this month 22 students in years 12 and 13 went to Berlin for a Cold War themed visit to support their study of German, History and Politics. During the three days we visited many fascinating sites and enjoyed seeing parts of Berlin the average tourist may not get to see including secret nuclear bunkers hidden behind an apparently ordinary underground station. Highlights for many included seeing remaining parts of the Berlin Wall and visiting the Reichstag building at night; the currywurst and chips were somewhat less popular!



Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 8th 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 top instead of their shirt, tie and blazer and to donate £1 for doing so - this will be payable on ParentPay. We appreciate that in the run up to Christmas paying £1 may be too much for some of our families. Any donation, which can be given, is greatly received.

All other uniform (trousers/skirts and shoes) are still to be worn. If your child chooses not to wear a Christmas jumper, 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 £500 for this great cause.

The House System

The roll out of the House System in school has made for a really exciting start to the year. It's so great to have another vehicle through which to celebrate student successes and for students to have another opportunity to feel as though they belong to a community in school.



It's been great to see students engaging in House activities, and to hear them discussing the Houses that they are in with staff and other students.

The introduction of the House system has seen a really positive increase in the number of students entering competitions, and putting themselves forward (and sometimes out of their comfort zone) to earn points for their House. This is exactly what we hoped for, and something on which we want to continue to build.

At the time of writing this letter, we've awarded a staggering 206,439 House Points, 49 extra-curricular pin badges through the House Assemblies, and a phenomenal number of students have achieved their bronze, silver, gold and ruby certificates for accumulating vast numbers of House Points. I even spoke to a student on Monday evening who has a weekly goal for House Points to keep him on track to achieve the Areté Award (1250 House Points). It's amazing to see our students actively *enjoying* success; that's not always easy (and doesn't always come naturally) when you're a teenager!

Bronze Award (100 House Points) - 318 students

Silver Award (200 House Points) - 416 students

Gold Award (300 House Points) - 190 students

Ruby Award (400 House Points) - 48 students

Platinum (500 House Points) - 14 students

Recruitment of House Captains

Having appointed House Captains and Senior House Captains in the Sixth Form, these students are now helping us to recruit House Captains in the lower school to build their house team. **ANY** student is eligible to apply, regardless of whether they are already a part of our student leadership team, and even if they've no experience in a role like this. There will be two House Captains appointed per form, and students can apply via a Google form (link below). Applicants will then be interviewed by the Sixth Form House Captains which will give everyone experience either as an interviewer or as a candidate at interview. Successful candidates will be appointed in January and will then officially be a part of the House Leadership team.

Students are being spoken to about this role over the coming weeks, but if you think this is a role that would suit (or help to develop) your child then we would love for you to encourage them to apply and support them in filling in their application.

The deadline for applications is Friday 8th December. Should you or your child have any questions at all about this, please don't hesitate to contact us.

[House Captain advert](#)

[House Captain Job description](#)

[House Captain Application form](#)



House Ties

From January, students in school will be able to apply for a House tie to demonstrate their commitment to the House and the school.

Watch this space for more information about how students will apply for - and be awarded - their house tie.



Careers Fair

Stokesley Careers team will be holding a careers fair on Wednesday 6th December for our Sixth Form students and students from Y9 to 11 to showcase the many options and opportunities available, such as apprenticeships the area has to offer the students. We will be joined by many local FE colleges as well as some Universities. This seems like a good opportunity to remind you that all students in school have access to our careers platform, UNIFROG, on which you can find a wealth of information about education and career paths for young people. If you or a business you know would like to support the school and be part of the careers fair or offer additional support please get in touch with Mrs. Stirling via mstirling@stk.arete.uk

Congratulations to Y11 and Y13




Students in Y11 and Y13 have all taken their first set of Formal Assessments over the last six weeks. Mrs Herbert, our Exam's Officer and the invigilators wanted to pass on their congratulations and praise for excellent conduct. We have all been exceptionally proud of their efforts. Students are now in the process of receiving results and feedback. We are also hosting our Academic Parents' evenings for both year groups in the coming weeks. All parents/carers will have received a letter from Mrs Darbyshire, Deputy Headteacher, to invite them to make appointments for these events. Please see below for the dates. You will receive your child's progress reports just prior to each event. We hope this will enable you to have purposeful discussions about the next steps.

Photography Competition

We have been so impressed with the number of students entering competitions in school since the start of this year, and it's been great to see students keen to earn House Points for their house as well as enter for themselves.

We were particularly impressed with the 80 entries that we received for the photography competition! In the end we decided to have three categories as there were simply so many wonderful photographs. You can see the winning photographs below. Well done to all students involved!



Composition	Originality
Isabel (Artemis)	Ava (Demeter)
	
Technical ability	
Alex (Artemis)	
	

Attendance

As part of the Areté Learning Trust we work collaboratively and strongly believe that developing positive attendance and punctuality is vital in preparing young people for life in Modern Britain. The Department for Education shares our ethos and advocates the expectation that all students should maintain at least 96% attendance for each and every school year.

We are determined in encouraging the development of high self-esteem and for our children to take pride and ownership of their learning. For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education and develop essential life skills, it is vital that they attend regularly.



Parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school, on time, every day the school is open; unless the reason for the absence is unavoidable.

As a school we work closely with our parents/carers, our attendance and pastoral team and the Local Authority to support regular school attendance. Over the coming weeks, students who have maintained excellent attendance will be rewarded for their efforts. Additionally, we have launched our four week streak leading up to Christmas! If, for whatever reason, your child has not maintained 96% attendance across this term, there is still time for them to improve. If you have any concerns you wish to discuss, please contact our attendance team on attendance@stk.arete.uk.

Dates for your diary

Friday 1 December	Training Day (no students in school)
Thursday 7 December	Y13 Parents' Evening: 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 8 December	Student Leader fundraising - Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11th December	Y11 Parents' Evening, 3.30 - 6.30pm
Monday 18th December	Foodbank Collection (all week)
Tuesday 19th December	Christmas Show, 6.00 - 8.00pm
Friday 22nd December	School breaks up for Christmas - 2.15pm
Monday 8 January	Students return to school
Thursday 11 January 2024	Y9 Parents' Evening, 3.30 - 6.30pm
Monday 15 January	PTA meeting - 6.00pm

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Fenwick
Headteacher