



2nd September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Back to school - September 2024

I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful summer holiday. We are looking forward to the start of term and have enjoyed celebrating some fabulous A level and GCSE results with our students.

Here is some key information ahead of the start of term:

Short Read

- Year 7 and 12 students return to school on Wednesday 4th September at 8:40am.
- All other year groups return on Thursday 5th September at 8:40am.
- During half term 6 we had a focus (including during Y6 into Y7 transition) on school rules taught through assemblies and **LIFE** lessons, students responded very well to this focus.
- A new national framework for attendance penalty notices has come into force from 19th August. Simply, penalty notices for unauthorised absences have been increased (see attached flow chart and code of conduct provided by the local authority).
- Our first annual rewards trips and in school activities will be taking place on Friday 27th September.
- **We expect all students to be on time every day. The school day begins at 8:40am.**
- **Students should be in full school uniform, no trainers, and they should have all the necessary equipment for the day ahead.** At the very least this is a bag, black pens, pencils, a green pen, a ruler, a calculator, water bottle and a charged Chromebook with headphones or earbuds for use at teacher discretion.
- **Jewellery, fake eyelashes and excessive makeup are not acceptable and school uniform must be worn correctly.**
- We expect everyone on site, whether they be students, staff, parents, carers or other visitors to be **respectful at all times**. This is summarised by three words: **polite, kind and considerate**.

Longer Read

We were really impressed with the way students conducted themselves in the final weeks of term. The vast majority of our students do exactly what we expect of them all the time: they are a credit to themselves and you as parents and contribute positively to the life of the school. We work closely with a minority of students to support them getting things right more often. We want all our students to develop good habits that aren't just important in school, but will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives. Our **positive conduct curriculum** - delivered through assemblies and during tutor time in **LIFE** lessons - is designed to support this goal and student

STOKESLEY SCHOOL, STATION ROAD, STOKESLEY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE TS9 5AL

www.stokesleyschool.org

01642 710050





surveys conducted during the last half term demonstrate that students appreciate the focus on positive conduct that we started in September 2023.

During the penultimate week of term, we undertook a behaviour review in school, conducted by Red Kite Learning Trust, the feedback from the review reflected the positive conduct and warm environment our school and students provide, commenting that *“the warm and friendly welcome from the staff and students was very much appreciated. Throughout the day staff were seen modelling with student’s positive relationships in and out of lessons. There is much to celebrate and reasons to be optimistic that the ‘Stokesley Way’ will continue to develop and help create the desired school community based on shared values. The general positive feel of the school climate was impressive. The vast majority of young people spoken to randomly during the day on corridors and in social areas responded politely to a complete stranger saying, ‘Good morning etc,’ not always the response a visitor receives in all schools!”*

Unauthorised Absence

The government has launched a new National Framework for Penalty notices, which came into force on 19th August. **Please view the attached flowchart and Code of Conduct**, provided by North Yorkshire Council. Penalty notices for first offences have been increased to £160 per child for a first offence, reduced to £80 per child if paid within 21 days.

Rewards Trips: Friday 27th September

Students in Years 8 -11 and Year 13 who met our criteria for rewards trips will shortly be invited to select the trip they would like to go on. To do this, we will require you as parents/carers to complete an online form before we then process the data and ask you for payment for those trips.

The turnaround on these trips will be tight, so please look out for the form which, like this letter, will come via email.

For students in Y7 and 12, and those students who did not qualify for the rewards trips, there will be enrichment activities planned for throughout the day in school. Some qualifying students have also already expressed a desire to remain in school on that day which is, of course, absolutely fine. Although, we would encourage all our students to take opportunities to go to new places as and when they arise.

Standards and expectations: uniform and equipment

All students know how important it is to come to school prepared, wearing the correct uniform and with the equipment that they require. In addition to good attendance at school i.e. 95% or above, we want all students to ensure they are punctual in the morning and then throughout the day, we want them to ensure they are punctual to lessons.





It's natural for some young people to think that we enforce rules simply because we can. However, we have explained that we're trying to replicate the society that they will enter in as many ways as possible but in an environment where they're ok to make some mistakes.

If we take uniform as an example, many of us as adults work in environments with strict dress codes such as the NHS, Europe's largest employer. Moreover, some of the working environments in our local area are so strict on uniforms that the incorrect PPE or possession of a mobile phone on site means that employees can face immediate disciplinary action or dismissal. Similarly, you are expected to turn up to work with the correct equipment to complete the job. By encouraging students to come to school prepared, we are working to prepare them for realities such as these in their adult lives which - frightening as it may seem - really are not that far away!

It would be extremely helpful if you would remind your children of some of our key expectations or rules that are all in place to ensure school staff can focus on the things we really want to: teaching, learning and pastoral care.

Mobile Phones and Earbuds are not allowed to be used by students once on the school site. They must be **switched off and stored in a bag**. We do ask that students bring earbuds or headphones into school for use in classes when directed by their teachers for things like listening exercises in MFL lessons, this use is at their teacher's discretion.

Students must come to school in full uniform, including in correct school shoes. It is not acceptable for students to come to school wearing trainers or wearing excessive makeup. **The only piece of jewellery students can wear is a watch.**

Students should all bring a water bottle to school and use the water fountains available throughout school, during break times, to top these up when necessary. Fizzy, sugary and energy drinks are not allowed in school and will be confiscated where found.

Suitable coats should be worn on top of the blazer and hoodies are not allowed to be worn underneath a blazer. Please support us in ensuring that your child leaves the house appropriately dressed for school, and that if they receive sanctions for not following these rules that they are spoken to about this at home. Our [uniform policy and expectations](#) can be viewed on our website.

Where students are unable or unwilling to address issues relating to our uniform policy, we will contact parents to collect their child and address the issues. If a student refuses to address these issues it may lead to suspension.

I want to finish as I started: on a positive note. The wider staff and I are looking forward to another highly successful year at Stokesley School. The excellent exam results our students have achieved this summer are not achieved by accident. The grades achieved demonstrate the way in which the overwhelming majority of our students buy into what we do every day; meeting and exceeding our expectations, being receptive to excellent teaching and pushing themselves to be





the best they can. The recent Red Kite peer review summarised that, *'the school community ethos cannot be 'manufactured' for an external visit and is a terrific foundation to build upon.'* We look forward to working with you, in partnership, to help your child become the best they can be.

Kind Regards

Mr James Burns
Assistant Headteacher
Engagement and wellbeing

