

**October 2024**

Parents / Carers

## Headteacher's Update

As we conclude our first half term, I'm thrilled to report on our students' remarkable progress and positive spirit. Compared to last year, we've seen a surge in house points awarded (over 30,000 more) for exemplary behaviour, from academic participation to community involvement.

Our students have been immersed in an exciting array of activities, from sporting events and academic trips to cultural experiences like our Paris excursion. With over 60 events this term, their enthusiasm and engagement have been inspiring.

I extend my sincere gratitude to parents and carers for their unwavering support. Your efforts in ensuring timely arrivals, completed homework, and participation in extracurricular activities significantly contribute to your child's success and personal growth.

I'm particularly grateful to those parents who have gone above and beyond by serving as governors or PTA members. Their dedication is instrumental in meeting our community's needs and enriching our students' educational journey.

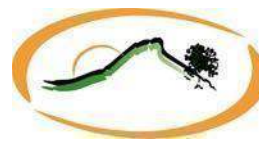
I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break during the half term. We look forward to welcoming you back in November for an exciting lead-up to the holiday season.

## Reminder – Dropping off and collecting students along Station Road

We have recently noticed an increase in the number of parents entering the main school car park before school. Could parents please note that access to the main school car park on Station Road is restricted to pass holders and the school transport providers.

Parents should drop their children off along Station Road or at the back of school near the Leisure Centre where students have only to walk a few yards up the paved area to get into school. We would appreciate the cooperation of all families in this regard.

Please could parents also ensure that whilst waiting for students to come out of school at the end of the day they do not block the driveways of residents along Station Road; please leave plenty of space for residents to enter/exit their properties.



## Sixth Form Update

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year in Sixth Form at Stokesley School. We have welcomed Mr Dinsdale to our successful Sixth Form team. He has been warmly welcomed by our students in every way and we eagerly await observing how the Sixth Form football team performs this year!

So far this year we have been delighted to welcome to our Sixth Form, Sheffield, Teesside, Newcastle and York Universities as well as St Catharine's College, Cambridge and Brasenose College, Oxford. They have provided insight and advice ranging from study support to university life and applications.

As part of our LIFE programme, acting on the input from our student voices, we have organised events with our Well-being in Mind Team, and also welcomed visitors from *YorSexualHealth*, *Oddballs* and *Boobettes* to raise awareness and educate our students about their health, and the importance of self care. Newcastle Building Society have also visited and provided useful and informative advice about personal finance. Our student voice teams continue to make us aware of what matters most to them, and we look forward to welcoming more external visitors to our school to inform us all of the issues that matter most.

Special thanks and appreciation go to our Student Leaders, who have shown all that is great in our young people when they have represented our school in all of our events.

Y12 students have settled in well and have fully embraced life in Sixth Form. Students can now look forward to increased independence after half term. As well as settling into their new subjects, students have embraced the new opportunities they have. Some have become Student Leaders and House Captains, whilst others have participated in our Student Service by signing up to become buddies of our younger students or helping them in lessons.

Our Enrichment Day was enjoyed by all, where we saw teamwork and competition amongst our students, winning awards for the best baking and our quiz, but also in our inflatable assault course.

Thanks goes to the Humanities Department who will be taking our students to Teesside University for support with their EPQ

Y13 are off to a great start - our students have benefitted from the help and support of the Sixth Form Team putting together their applications for a huge variety of destinations. Twelve applications to OXBRIDGE and to universities have now been sent for dentistry, medicine and veterinary sciences. We look forward to supporting all of our students to help them fulfil their aspirations.



We extend a thanks to all of the universities who have been able to support our students in their visits to Sixth Form, offering advice and information about post-18 opportunities. A special thanks goes to Brasenose College, Oxford and St Catharine's College, Cambridge, who gave a seminar and held workshops with us to support Y13 with advice for their applications and interviews. We look forward to continuing our work with them in the future.

Finally, it has been a privilege to welcome our Y11 students, including some from neighbouring schools, to our Sixth Form Open Evening and Taster Day. They were able to see our range of subjects on offer, as well as the range of support available including careers advice, pastoral and support services. We look forward to receiving their applications and supporting them in the coming months with more experiences and support until we see them next year.

## SPA Update

In the first few weeks we have been overwhelmed with the number of new students coming into the department. It has been lovely to welcome in our new Y7s and 12s – especially into our extra-curricular clubs. Dance club, led by Miss Pottinger and Mrs Horsfield has seen the numbers increase substantially and the energy and enthusiasm they are showing is just brilliant. Vocal group have also been making a fantastic sound singing two classics – 'Ironic' and 'I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker'. The blend and harmonies sound great. We can't wait to show you their work at the Christmas Showcase in December.

The dance department also welcomed industry professional, Louise Walker, who delivered an exciting Dance Workshop to some of our Year 8 and 9 students. Students learnt choreography in two different dance styles, Commercial and Jazz, and performed their routines in front of each other. The workshop ended with a Q&A regarding Louise's impressive dance career. The group really enjoyed their dance workshop learning new skills from Louise and have asked if she can come back to deliver more dance workshops.

The SPA has hosted its first Stokesley Showcase evening – students were able to come along after school to watch 'Come From Away' in full surround sound.

Keep your eyes peeled for more performances to be shown allowing our students to experience live theatre directly in school.



The launch night for our SPA production 2025 took place on the 23rd October. With over 100 students signed up on the Google classroom we are excited to audition our production on Wednesday 6th November, with our first rehearsal on the 20th November. The production will take place in July 2025.



## Personal Development

The personal development of the young people that come through our doors continues to be at the forefront of everything that we do in Stokesley School. We want to ensure that, by the time they leave us, our students have had ample opportunities to find out who they are and what they enjoy doing, as well as to build and develop their personalities. Students from year 7 through to year 13 have access to our amazing range of clubs, and it's been great to see these starting up this half term, with lots of students choosing to attend at least one on a regular basis.

## The House System and Student Leadership

It's been a busy couple of weeks in the world of student leadership. Last week saw our first round of House assemblies, which we're incredibly proud to say were entirely student led by our Head Boy, Head Girl and senior student leaders. After some amazing applications and interviews, we have also appointed 16 year 12 students into the position of House Captain and are looking forward to seeing the way in which they work together – and alongside our younger students – to continue to grow the House system in school.

Another element of student leadership of which we're proud is our Sixth Form Service which, by this point in the term, is well under way. All students in year 12 (and many in year 13 still) are asked to contribute in some way to the lower school. For some of our students, that's supporting in curriculum lessons, for some of them it's running or supporting lower school clubs, for some of them it's taking on practical duties such as running the tills in the Meal Machine or Café on a lunchtime, and for some of them it's working one-to-one with younger students who need support. Whatever it is that they have chosen to do, we're incredibly proud of – and thankful for – the support that our sixth formers are bringing to our school community.

## Competitions

You may have seen on our social media a poster depicting our competitions for October. There are 4 competitions that students can choose to enter, and they'll get House Points for taking part as well as – of course – being in the winning three. It's been great to see entries already coming in, but we know that sometimes students need that extra push from home to get involved. The deadline for all entries is Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November, and we can't wait to see our students' creativity at work!



## Help Us to Win Funding for Goalposts!

We have reached the final of a local competition to win funding for goalposts in school which, as we're sure you can imagine, all our students will benefit from either in PE lessons or through extracurricular activities. Voting is really simple, all you need to do is click on the link below.

Please share the link far and wide and encourage as many people to vote as possible!

[Click here to vote](#)

## School Social Media

Did you know that we use Instagram and Facebook to share information about the fantastic things that are happening in school, as well as communicating information to parents? If you're not already following us, please do so to ensure that you're up to date and so that you're able to get a little more of an insight into the range of things happening.

If you have a good news story that you'd like sharing on our social media, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

## Year 7 - Stokesley's Spooky Stories

Year 7 students at Stokesley School recently attended "Stokesley's Spooky Stories," a Halloween-themed literacy event. Held in the school after hours, the event aimed to spark creativity and a love for reading through spooky tales. With dim lighting and eerie decorations, students heard scary stories read by Mrs Bailey and Wednesday Adams (Mrs Kent). Stokesley's Spooky Stories sparked excitement for literacy among Year 7 students while getting everyone into the Halloween spirit.

## Dates for Your Diary

Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov	Half Term
Monday 4th November	School re-opens
Tuesday 5th November	Y10 Geography fieldtrip – Newcastle
Wednesday 6th November	Drama trip to 'Warhorse' - 5.30pm
Thursday 7th November	Y10 Geography field trip – Newcastle
Tuesday 12th November	Y9 Monologue Evening



Wednesday 13th November	Y7 Geography fieldwork to Middlesbrough
Friday 15th November	Children in Need
Friday 29th November	PD Day – no students in school
Thursday 5th December	Y13 Parents' Evening
Friday 6th December	Metro Centre Shopping Trip
Monday 9th December	Christmas Foodbank Appeal
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Y11 Parents' Evening
Friday 13th December	London Trip
Tuesday 17th December	Creative Arts Christmas Showcase 6 – 8.00pm
Friday 20th December	End of term

Yours faithfully

**Mr M Fenwick**  
Headteacher