



FOUNDED IN 1888

STOCKPORT SCHOOL

Headteacher Mr I. R. Irwin BA (Hons), MSc, NPQH

18th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to update you with relevant information as we approach the end of term and indeed the end of the academic year! I would also like to welcome with this letter, our new parents and carers whose children begin at Stockport School in September in Year 7. I hope you find the contents of this letter informative and useful.

As you will be aware, we finish for the summer on **Thursday 20th July**. Students will be dismissed at the earlier time of **12.10pm**.

Stockport School will re-open for the start of the autumn term in a staggered format in order to ensure that all students are provided with a supportive induction and transition programme upon their return. This will include two full days of induction and transition activities for our new Year 7 students. Our Year 11 students will also receive a full day of additional induction/transition day activities, before commencing with their formal timetable, as they will receive some important careers and post-16 guidance and advice sessions to help support them with their planning for the year ahead. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will also receive a focused part-day of initial induction and transition activities to help prepare them for a successful start to the new academic year.

For information, I have attached at the end of this letter a summary of the updated Tutor group lists, outlining Form Tutors and rooms for 2023/24. Please note that new Year 7 students will be advised and reminded of their new Tutor group upon arrival for their first Induction day in September.

****Please check the table, below, carefully for the exact date and time when your child is due to return in September as it will vary dependent upon which Year group your child is in, in order to accommodate the induction/transition activities.***

The return dates and times for all students are listed below, for your information and planning.

<u>Return Date</u>	<u>Groups Involved</u>	<u>Activity and Start Times</u>
Monday 4th September	Staff Only	Staff Inset Day (Training)
Tuesday 5th September	Year 7 Only	Induction Day 1, 11.20am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 6th September	Year 7	Induction and Transition Activity Day 2, 8.40am – 3.00pm
	Year 11	Induction Day and Careers Guidance Day 1, 8.40am – 3.00pm
	Years 8, 9 & 10	Induction Day 1, 11.20am – 3.00pm
Thursday 7th September	All Students	All Students across all Year groups return full-time for the start of the normal teaching timetable from 8.40am

New Year 7 students should arrive via the Mile End Lane pedestrian gate, and then congregate on the tennis courts upon arrival on their first day from **11.20am on Tuesday 5th September**. **Parents and carers must not come onto school premises with their child.**

All other students across other Year groups, should also initially enter the school grounds on their first induction day back in September by one of the gates specified below for their Year group. **It is important that all students arrive via the correct gate at the correct time.**

Address Mile End Lane, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6BW **Tel** 0161 483 3622 **Fax** 0161 456 9452

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Students will be required to access and leave the school premises via one of the following specified gates:

<u>Gate</u>	<u>Year Group</u>	
Mile End Pedestrian Gate (single gate)	Year 7	
Lake Street Gate (double width gate)	Year 8	Year 9
Sandhurst Road Gate (double width gate)	Year 10	Year 11

Students arriving on bicycles, must enter/exit via the same gate specified for their Year group, above. Students must disembark their bikes and then walk and push their bikes across the school to and from the cycle compound to the appropriate gate.

When arriving for their first induction day in September, students must immediately go direct, without mixing with other Year groups to congregate at their Tutor group Fire Evacuation lining-up point on one of the following Playground areas, where they will be greeted by staff and given further instruction.

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Induction Date & Arrival Time</u>	<u>Entry Gate</u>	<u>Congregation Point</u>
Year 7	Tuesday 5th September, 11.20am	Mile End Gate	Year 7 Fire Evacuation Tutor Group Lining-up Point on the Small Tennis Courts
Year 8	Wednesday 6th September, 11.20am	Lake Street Gate	Year 8 Fire Evacuation Tutor Group Lining-up Point on the Large Tennis Courts
Year 9	Wednesday 6th September, 11.20am	Lake Street Gate	Year 9 Fire Evacuation Tutor Group Lining-up Point on the Large Tennis Courts
Year 10	Wednesday 6th September, 11.20am	Sandhurst Road Gate	Year 10 Fire Evacuation Tutor Group Lining-up Point on the Lake Street Gym Playground in front of the Canopy
Year 11	Wednesday 6th September, 8.40am	Sandhurst Road Gate	Year 11 Fire Evacuation Tutor Group Lining-up Point on the Lake Street Gym Playground near to the Sports Cage

2023/24 Term Dates

I have included with this letter, a copy of next year's Term Dates for the new academic year.

In relation to this, please could I remind you that I am no longer allowed to authorise term time holidays for students. Parents are therefore, advised to arrange any family holidays outside the published school term times, and also to try and arrange any necessary medical appointments for the end of the school day in order to avoid missing time off school.

Staffing Changes

As ever, there will be a number of changes to the staffing for the start of next year, and there are a few members of staff who will be leaving Stockport School at the end of this term for pastures new or to enjoy retirement; they include:

<u>Member of Staff</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>Length of Service</u>	<u>Destination</u>
Miss Ojomo	Learning Support Assistant	4 Months	To pursue a Masters qualification course
Miss Nester	Academic Mentor - History	1 year	To pursue a Teacher Training qualification
Mr Feaver	Academic Mentor - English	1 year	To pursue a Masters qualification course
Mr Sunderland	Teacher of Music	6 years	New Teaching role overseas
Mrs McGrory	Teacher of Science	11 years	New Teaching role overseas
Mr Whitehead	Deputy Headteacher	12 years	Retirement from full-time Deputy Headteacher role
Mrs Small	Assistant Director of English	17 years	New post at Manchester Hospital School
Mrs Stone	Director Drama	21 years	To pursue a Masters qualification course / Change of career

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I should like to thank all of our staff leavers for their excellent contribution to Stockport School and wish them every success in the future.

New Staff - External Appointments

In terms of staffing appointments, I am delighted to inform you that we have been able to attract and recruit a number of fantastic new teaching and support staff members for September, all of whom are very highly qualified and skilled in their particular areas. I am confident that they will each make a great contribution to our successful school. The staff listed below will join us in September.

<u>New Starters</u>	
Mr Wright	Teacher of English
Mrs Cassidy	Teacher of English with Additional Responsibility
Mrs Dutton	Teacher of Science
Mr Coyne	Teacher of Design Technology, Construction & Engineering
Mrs Smith	Director of Drama
Miss Mellow	Teacher of Drama
Mr Rongong	Teacher of Music
Mrs Guy	Teacher of Mathematics
Mrs George	Reading & Literacy Intervention Mentor
Miss Dyson	Academic Mentor - English
Mrs Tsoi	Learning Support Assistant - SEND
Mrs Daintry	Learning Support Assistant - SEND
Mrs Abid	Learning Support Assistant - SEND
Mrs Madden	Learning Support Assistant - SEND
Mrs McFadden	Learning Support Assistant - SEND
Mrs Chappell	Learning Support Assistant - SEND

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our new members of staff on their appointment to the staff of Stockport School and to wish them well in their new roles, I am confident that they will only further strengthen us as we continue to move forward and grow as a school.

Head Boy & Head Girl

I would like to give thanks to our 2022/23 Head Boy, **Ben Formosa**, and his Deputy, **Daniel Mather**, and to Head Girl, **Niamh Lawrence**, and her Deputy, **Jennifer Chorlton**. Thanks also go to the wider Senior Prefect Team for their outstanding contribution and commitment to the school this year, and we wish them all the very best for their futures.

In terms of appointing our new Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls, it has been incredibly difficult to decide upon this year, due to the quality and strength of the shortlisted applicants. I am delighted to inform you however, that **Gwen Flint** has been appointed to the role of Head Girl, and **Sam Hardman** to the role of Head Boy for 2023/24. Gwen and Sam will be very ably supported in their roles by **Mathilda Warren-O'Neill** as Deputy Head Girl, and **Max Barley** as Deputy Head Boy.

The Head and Deputy Head Prefects will also have exceptionally strong support next year, from a brilliant team of Senior Prefects, who will have important team leadership roles over the wider Prefect Team, whom have all now been successfully appointed, in advance of them all beginning in their roles in September.

Attendance

Our attendance target for all students is 100% (190 days attended from 190) and we have a core expectation that all students achieve over 97% attendance. It goes almost without saying that regular attendance is essential to progress and success and for that reason I would hope that you will support us from the start of term in helping your child to achieve well over 97% attendance next year. Every day matters and each day missed hinders progress.

Therefore, all parents and carers are reminded of the school policy upon requesting absence from school to attend medical or dental appointments during school hours. Routine appointments should be avoided where possible during the school day, with

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appointments ideally arranged outside of school hours. As you will be aware, the NHS in the past couple of years have extended their out of hours GP practice appointment times, and it is hoped that all parents and carers where possible, will seek to make use of those out of hours, and/or non-term time dates for routine appointments for their child. It is accepted that some non-routine, specialist treatments may not be bookable by appointment and may therefore, need additional consideration for leave during school hours.

Given the importance of safeguarding in relation to non-attendance, I wish to also advise that if a student is off for two days or more, without suitable notification and evidence provided, it is possible that a home visit welfare check may be made in the interests of safeguarding for the child. Attendance is very important, and where students can attend school, they should, and we will then do all that we can in school to support them in their progress and development.

Uniform, Equipment & Appearance

As part of our continual drive to maintain high standards, I would once again from the start of term, like to request your full support as parents/carers. In particular, I would ask that students wear their Stockport School uniform with pride at all times, both in school and on the journey to and from school. Students should continue to wear their blazers, with shirts/blouses fully buttoned and tucked in to their waistband, with ties attached correctly at the collar (ties should be clip-on only). Shoes should be able to be polished as black leather, with no canvas material, trainers or boots permitted.

Students are also advised during the winter months to wear under layers such as vests or plain white T shirts under their school uniform, as well as being strongly advised to purchase and wear the optional School jumper underneath their school blazer, in order to ensure that they remain warm enough during the autumn and winter months. Coats should not be worn inside the school buildings.

Outdoor coats are an important addition to the full school uniform, and all students are advised to have a good warm, and if possible, waterproof coat (not hooded top or tracksuit which are not permitted), to wear, when outside, over their school blazer. This is particularly important as all students are required to go outside of the school buildings at break and lunchtime (unless it is extreme wet weather).

It is also essential in terms of preparation for success in school, that each child continues to bring in their own equipment (pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, calculator, subject materials and books etc.). If necessary, equipment like calculators can also be purchased from the school shop and via our online Wisepay system at cheaper prices than in supermarkets.

I would also like to remind all parents/carers that the following items are also not allowed in school:

- Students are not allowed to wear jewellery apart from a simple wrist watch (*smart or Apple watches are not allowed*)
- Body piercings are not allowed, apart from one small plain stud in each ear lobe.
- Hair styles and colours should not be extreme.
- Make-up and false eyelashes are not allowed and should not be worn.
- Acrylic / Gel nails are also not suitable for school and are not allowed.

Students are also reminded that if worn, skirts must be of a reasonable length and should not be too short above the knee. Unfortunately, earlier during the summer term, prior to my last letter to you, some students were beginning to breach this expectation by intentionally wearing their skirts inappropriately far too short by rolling the waist band up. This is not acceptable nor respectful of our high expectations as a school. If upon our return in September, any skirts are deemed to be too short and inappropriate for school then parents will be contacted and students may be isolated until they appear in appropriate school uniform.

Please could I ask you as parents/carers, to follow our uniform (including correct shoes) policy fully when purchasing any new items of uniform prior to September. The full uniform policy is available on our website www.stockportschool.net and also via the this hyperlink [School Uniform Guide A5 booklet.pdf \(stockportschool.net\)](#)

Please also note as a reminder to my previous letters and communications, that we will continue to enforce a strict no trainers rule whatsoever, with students ONLY permitted to wear traditional black shoes. Black training shoes of any type will not be permitted.

I would also like to remind parents that uniform and PE kit items can be purchased from all of our usual uniform suppliers (Davensport on Bramhall Lane in Davenport and Monkhouse near to the Bus Station in Stockport).

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Full details of our uniform, equipment and appearance policy are available on our school website www.stockportschool.net All parents/carers are advised to shop early before the end of August for new uniform and shoes, in order to avoid queues (it may be that you have to book an appointment). All students, without exception, must wear full school uniform including tie, blazer and black polishable leather shoes upon their return in September.

For your information, Heads of Year, have a small supply of basic uniform items, including blazers, trousers, skirts, shirts/blouses, ties, and shoes for those students whom for whatever reason are struggling to obtain them for use in school, and students whom do not have them should see their Head of Year for support with this. Parents and carers are encouraged privately to contact your child's Head of Year should you need to for any support or advice with regards to these matters which will be addressed in a sensitive and supportive fashion.

In addition, the Uniform Pop-Up Shop in the Merseyway Shopping Centre will also be open from Saturday 12th August for one week through until Saturday 19th August 2023, where it will be looking to sell 'good quality' recycled items of uniform for schools across the borough for as little as 50p each, with all proceeds going towards the Chelwood Foodbank and Great Ormond Street Hospital charities. To aid this, we will be providing to the Pop-Up Shop a range of good quality unclaimed lost property and other recently donated uniform items for them to include in their charity sale. We will also be looking to explore in the future, if we can provide our own occasional 'pop-up pre-loved uniform shop' in school, and we will share details with you when we can.

Mobile Phones & Electronic Equipment

A particular distraction to learning that we have thankfully now almost eliminated, is that of mobile phones, earphones and electronic Apple/smart watches, and I would once again like to request your support in reminding your child that these items should be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the entire school day.

Electronic Apple/smart watches, due to exam regulations and general distraction, are not allowed whatsoever in school and therefore, should not be worn.

Students are however, allowed at their own risk, to bring in their mobile phones. They must however, after 8.30am, be switched off and put away out of sight, and not be taken out, looked at, or used in any way whatsoever, until students have left the school building at the end of the normal school day and are about to make their way home for the evening. Students who abuse this rule (including that of Apple/smart watches) will have the item confiscated and stored safely for parents to collect.

**All parents/carers are advised in advance of this school rule and of the necessity for them (or another named adult) to collect confiscated items from the school office, and that we will not look to waver this ruling for individual students allowing them to collect their own confiscated equipment instead of parents/carers. It is important therefore, that students are also reminded at home of this expectation and rule, so that it does not risk causing upset or offence if requested and denied in the future.*

Free School Meals Entitlement

We are aware from our records that a number of parents who may be eligible to claim Free School Meals for their children do not submit a claim to the Local Authority. If you receive any of the benefits listed below, your child is entitled to Free School Meals:

- Income support
- Income related employment and support allowance
- Universal Credit
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The "Guarantee" element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190.
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

I would urge you, therefore in advance of the start of term, to make a claim and use your entitlement. Claims can be made by visiting the Local Authority at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/start/free-school-meals-application-form>. Should you require any further information or help, please contact the School Business Manager, Ms. Oaks at k.oaks@stockport.stockport.sch.uk.

Bikes and Student Safety

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Given the large numbers of students who cycle to school each day, I would again like to remind students and parents of the importance of bike safety and road awareness. There have been a number of reports this year of students riding bikes without taking due care and attention of the environment around them, sometimes causing concern to pedestrians and car drivers. In the interests of safety, I would ask that all students ensure that their bikes are roadworthy in terms of safety and that they show due consideration to other persons when riding to and from school in order to avoid an accident. We would also strongly advise the wearing of a helmet for additional safety in case of an accident – current students will be aware from assemblies this year of how wearing a helmet saved the life of one of our students who was involved in a serious accident near to school.

Students should also note, that all bicycles must be stored securely in our bike rack areas near to the Tennis Courts or Lake Street Gym. If students come to school on a bike, they must secure their bike with a lock in this area by no later than 8.35am. For health and safety reasons bikes cannot be left anywhere else on the school site, and will be removed if found.

**Please note that the school does not accept any responsibility for any damage or theft of bikes brought onto the school premises, and bikes are therefore, brought onto the premises at risk of the owner.*

Please could I also remind parents who drop-off or pick-up students from school, not to park on double yellow or zig-zag lines as not adhering to this puts our students and other passers-by at risk. By way of consideration and courtesy to our neighbouring residents, I would also ask that parents are considerate of where they park when dropping off or picking up their child from school, and we would ask that parents avoid blocking driveways or parking in such a way that restricts the flow of traffic around the school.

Examination Results

This year GCSE results will be published on Thursday, 24th August, 2023. Students can receive their GCSE results from 10.00am on 24th August. Staff will be on hand to issue students with their results and to congratulate them, as well as providing support, guidance and advice on the next steps for each child, as required. I look forward to the results day in August with great optimism.

Finally, I should like to thank all of our parents and carers for their magnificent support this year and wish everybody associated with Stockport School a relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mr I. R. Irwin
Headteacher

Enclosures: Term Dates 2023-24
Form Tutor List 2023-24

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Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

(Term Lengths: 7 weeks / 8 weeks)

**School will be closed to students on Monday, 4th September 2023 for staff training (INSET Day)*

Begins: Tuesday, 5th September 2023 at 11.20am (Year 7 only) (**RED week**)
Wednesday, 6th September 2023 at 8:40am (Year 7 & Year 11 only) & at 11.20am (Years 8, 9 & 10)
Thursday, 7th September 2023 at 8.40am, all students begin their full teaching timetable

**School will be closed to students on Friday, 6th October 2023 for staff training (INSET Day)*

Half-Term: **Closes:** Friday, 20th October 2023
Opens: Monday, 30th October 2023 at 8.40am (**BLUE week**)

**School will be closed to students on Friday 24th November 2023 for staff training (INSET – *Disaggregated)*

Ends: Friday, 22nd December 2023

Spring Term 2024

(Term Lengths: 5 weeks / 5 weeks & 4 days)

Begins: Monday, 8th January 2024 at 8.40am (**BLUE week**)

Half-Term: **Closes:** Friday, 9th February 2024
Opens: Monday, 19th February 2024 at 8.40am (**RED week**)

Ends: Thursday, 28th March 2024

**School will be closed for Easter, inclusive of Good Friday on 29th March 2024 & Easter Monday on 1st April 2024*

Summer Term 2024

(Term Lengths: 5 weeks & 4 days / 7 weeks & 2 days)

Begins: Monday, 15th April 2024 at 8.40am (**RED week**)

**School will be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on Monday, 6th May 2024*

Half-Term: **Closes:** Friday, 24th May 2024
Opens: Monday, 3rd June 2024 at 8.40am (**RED week**)

Ends: Friday, 19th July 2024

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*School will be closed to students on Mon 22nd July & Tues 23rd July 2024 for staff training (INSET - *Disaggregated)

Staff Training Days (INSET) = 5 days (School closed to students)

- Monday, 4th September 2023
- Friday, 6th October 2023
- Friday, 24th November 2023 (*Disaggregated*)
- Monday 22nd July 2024 (*Disaggregated*)
- Tuesday 23rd July 2024 (*Disaggregated*)

Form Tutor List – 2023-24

<u>Tutor Group</u>	<u>Form Tutor</u>	<u>Form Room</u>	<u>Head of Year</u>
11 Klee	Mr Tidy	138	Mrs Thorley
11 Van Gogh	Mr Pattison	154	
11 Escher	Ms. Abdullah / (Mrs Guy on a Friday)	134	
11 Picasso	Mr Jepson	228	
11 Da Vinci	Miss Roberts / (Miss Mellow)	N5	
11 Riley	Mr Thorneycroft	N2	
11 Goldsworthy	Mrs Cox / (Mrs Cawthorne)	N6	
11 Lowry	Mrs Harris / (Mrs Dutton)	212	
11 Monet	Miss Upton / (Mrs Hornby on a Wednesday)	140	
11 Turner	Mr Starczan	N4	
10 Klee	Mrs Howarth	M5	Mrs Walker
10 Van Gogh	Mrs Didcote	OUS	
10 Escher	Mr Hegarty	132	
10 Picasso	Mrs Swift	J8	
10 Da Vinci	Mrs Loftus	N3	
10 Riley	Mr Bowers	217	
10 Goldsworthy	Mr Hannard	130	
10 Lowry	Mr Sims	M2	
10 Monet	Mr Garcia	155	
10 Turner	Miss Seller	J6	
9 Klee	Mr McDonald	M7	Mr Galvin
9 Van Gogh	Mr Marchant / (Mr Wright)	N7	
9 Escher	Mr Haslam	128	
9 Picasso	Miss Watson	124	
9 Da Vinci	Mr Stonehouse / (Mrs Hitchmough)	216	
9 Riley	Mrs Cassidy	J3	
9 Goldsworthy	Mr Nuttall / (Mr Coyne)	121	
9 Lowry	Mr Burgoyne	202	
9 Monet	Mrs Whitehurst	201	
9 Turner	Mr Miller	152	
8 Klee	Miss Powell	131	Mrs Clarkson
8 Van Gogh	Mr Wells	125	
8 Escher	Mr Hardman	N5	
8 Picasso	Miss Parker	129	
8 Da Vinci	Mrs Fernandez	224	
8 Riley	Mr Carrick	136	
8 Goldsworthy	Miss Eddlestone	J11	
8 Lowry	Mr Didcote	122	
8 Monet	Mrs Lord / (Mrs Glass on a Tuesday)	126	

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8 Turner	Mrs Hogan	J7	Mr Taher
7 Klee	Mrs Barber	N8	
7 Van Gogh	Mrs Miah	M6	
7 Escher	Miss Evans	220	
7 Picasso	Mr Murphy	M1	
7 Da Vinci	Mrs Hatton	J2	
7 Riley	Miss Downs	223	
7 Goldsworthy	Mrs Smith / (Miss Mellow)	229	
7 Lowry	Mrs Burns	M3	
7 Monet	Mr Wright	139	
7 Turner	Mr Rongong / (Mr Tipler)	153	

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