



STOCKPORT SCHOOL

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

15th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the autumn term finishes for Christmas on Friday, 22nd December 2023. Students will be dismissed after having lunch, at the slightly earlier time of 12.00pm.

In terms of attendance and progress, it is important that all students attend through until the official end of term on Friday 22nd December. We will be recognising and celebrating students with full and improved attendance before the end of term in special celebration assemblies where there will be prizes and special award raffles taking place.

The new spring term begins for all students on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 8.40am. Students should arrive on site for 8.35am.

In advance of our return in January, I thought it may be helpful to remind and update you of the following information.

Christmas Charities and Christmas Dinner Day

We are proud that Stockport School has a strong community spirit and also actively supports charities. This year, we are once again supporting the Hits Radio Mission Christmas Toy Appeal which has so far literally seen hundreds of toys/presents brought into school by our own students, parents and staff. There is still some time this week if you would like to donate.

In support of our charities, we will also be running our Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 20th December, where for a £1.00 donation, our students and staff may come into school dressed with a festive jumper. Wednesday 20th December will also be the date when we offer a festive Christmas themed lunch which will run alongside our usual food offerings.

Parents' Evenings and Grade Cards

On Thursday, 25th January 2024 we will be holding our Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening (4.45pm – 8.00pm), and further details regarding the evening will follow early in the New Year. The Year 11 second Grade Card of the year will also be issued to parents of our Year 11 students prior to the evening. Students in Year 11 will also be issued on Wednesday 24th January with their GCSE Mock Exam Certificate, during a 'Mock Examination Results Day' event in school.

All other Year groups will receive their Grade Card summarising progress during the autumn term immediately during our first week back in January. As ever, once you receive them, I would encourage you to spend some time looking over it and discussing the information contained on the Grade Card, regarding targets, academic progress, and attitude to learning, with your child. It is important that both you and your child are fully aware of their progress to date and also of any areas in which they may need to direct their attention to during the spring term. If you would like any further information or support regarding student progress or the Grade Card, I would ask you to contact your child's Head of Year.

2024-25 Term Dates

I have also included with this letter a copy of the provisional 2024-25 Term Dates for your information. 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.

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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.

Enrichment

At Stockport School we are committed to providing additional, enriching opportunities for students away from the classroom. Enrichment is the opportunity for students to engage in the wider community and learn important life skills. We believe that encouraging students to participate in extra activities can add greater value to their school experience and help them to develop essential skills for life; trying new experiences, building friendships, confidence and resilience and having fun too.

Enrichment and extra-curricular activities at Stockport School take many forms and are included within the structure of the school day as well as before school, after school and during lunchtimes. Within the curriculum timetable there is enrichment during Tutor Time at the start of the day, sports; both practice and fixtures throughout the year and a host of other calendared events and opportunities to participate in and become involved with.

Alongside the extra-curricular activities, we also run a large number of revision workshops and Homework clubs in order to support students with their academic studies. There are also a wider variety of activities targeted at all Year groups which run before school, after school and during lunchtimes.

The upcoming Spring Term Enrichment Programme will be published on our website shortly and also sent to you separately for your information. I would encourage you to share and discuss with your child ahead of the start of term, and for them to identify clubs and activities to which they would like to attend and benefit from during the spring term.

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. Blazers must however be worn and are not optional. 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 at this time of the year, given the fact that all students are required to go outside of the school buildings at break and lunchtime (except in extreme wet weather).

It is also essential that each child continues to bring in their own equipment (pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, calculator, subject materials and books etc.).

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 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.
- Nail varnish, acrylic, gel, and other false nails are also not suitable for school and are not allowed.
- Skirts if worn, must not be rolled up at the waist and must be of a reasonable length just above or below the knee.
- Visible 'snow socks' or other fashion boot socks are not permitted.
- Finally, students must also continue to wear black polishable shoes.





I would like to advise that Apple and other Smart watch devices are not allowed in school, and that mobile phones must be kept switched off and out of sight throughout the school day from entering the school gates first thing in the morning through until leaving the school buildings at the end of the school day. Please be aware of this if you are purchasing any of these items as a present for your child at Christmas, as they will not be permitted in school.

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 the start of term in January. The full uniform policy is available on our website www.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.

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

Free School Meals Entitlement

As a school we are conscious of the current cost of living pressures, and in relation to this, we are also 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 Finance Office.

Finally, at the end of this autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers, for your incredible support once again this year. I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for the festive period and in the safe celebration of the end of 2023.

I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and hopefully successful New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mr I. R. Irwin
Headteacher





Term Dates 2024-25 (Draft)

Autumn Term 2024

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

**School will be closed to students on Monday, 2nd September 2024 for staff training (INSET Day)*

Begins: Tuesday, 3rd September 2024 at 11.20am (Year 7 only) (**RED week**)
Wednesday, 4th September 2024 at 8:40am (Year 7 & Year 11 only) & at 11.20am (Years 8, 9 & 10)
Thursday, 5th September 2024 at 8.40am, all students begin their full teaching timetable

**School will be closed to students on Friday, 4th October 2024 for staff training (INSET Day)*

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 18th October 2024
Opens: Monday, 28th October 2024 at 8.40am (**BLUE week**)

**School will be closed to students on Friday 22nd November 2024 for staff training (INSET – *Disaggregated)*

Ends: Thursday, 19th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

(Term Lengths: 6 weeks & 2 days / 7 weeks)

**School will be closed to students on Thursday 2nd Jan & Friday 3rd January 2025 for staff training (INSET - *Disaggregated)*

Begins: Monday, 6th January 2025 at 8.40am (**BLUE week**)

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 14th February 2025
Opens: Monday, 24th February 2025 at 8.40am (**BLUE week**)

Ends: Friday, 11th April 2025

***School will be closed for Easter, inclusive of Good Friday on 18th April 2025 & Easter Monday on 21st April 2025*

Summer Term 2025

(Term Lengths: 3 weeks & 4 days / 7 weeks)

Begins: Monday, 28th April 2025 at 8.40am (**RED week**)

***School will be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on Monday, 5th May 2025*

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 23rd May 2025
Opens: Monday, 2nd June 2025 at 8.40am (**RED week**)

Ends: Friday, 18th July 2025

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

- Monday, 2nd September 2024
- Friday, 4th October 2024
- Friday, 22nd November 2024 (*Disaggregated - TBC)
- Thursday 2nd January 2025 (Disaggregated)
- Friday 3rd January 2025 (Disaggregated)

