



STOCKPORT SCHOOL

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

10th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the **autumn term finishes for Christmas on Thursday, 19th December 2024**. Students will be dismissed after having lunch, at the slightly earlier time of 12.20pm.

In terms of attendance and progress, it is important that all students attend through until the official end of term on Thursday 19th 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, 6th January 2025 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 Thursday 12th December, where for a suggested voluntary £1.00 donation, our students and staff may come into school dressed with a festive jumper. Thursday 12th 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 9th January 2025 from 6.00pm to 6.30pm, we will be holding an important Year 10 Early Entry Information Evening for the parents and carers of students in Year 10, who are due to take an early entry GCSE or BTEC examination in the summer term of Year 10 (1 year earlier than their other subjects). The evening will include a brief presentation by your child's Subject Teacher or Head of Department on key information, deadlines, and how you can support your child leading up to their final exam/assessment in the summer term. We will also be providing support information/documentation and advice of how to revise and prepare for your child's first exam, and revision guides will also be on sale. We hope you can attend this important evening in support of your child and their first formal exam.

On Thursday, 23rd January 2025 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 22nd 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

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

Email headteacher@stockport.stockport.sch.uk Website www.stockportschool.net





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.

2025-26 Term Dates

I have also included with this letter a copy of the provisional 2025-26 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.

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.

Unfortunately, we currently have a relatively small number of students with attendance at or below 90%, which for them and ourselves is of serious concern. The Government classify **any student with below 90% attendance as a 'Persistent Absentee'** and those students and families are monitored much more closely, with additional actions taken where improvements are not seen, including **the use of £160 per parent fines for where a student misses 10 half day sessions or more in a 10-week period through unauthorised absence or lateness beyond 30 minutes.** I would hope that any student who has attendance below our target level of 97% + will seek to improve upon it in the New Year.

Please also note, that the new Government regulations state that **if a child arrives in school more than 30 minutes after the start of the day, they will not receive a present attendance mark for the morning, and this will therefore reduce your child's attendance if they are regularly late to school.** You should also be aware, that under the same tougher Government attendance regulations, that **if a student has 10 or more absent sessions (half days) including lateness beyond 9.10am (more than 30 minutes after the start of the school day), within a 10-week period you are likely to receive a fine from the Education Welfare Service of £160 per parent, per child (or reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days). This is then increased to £160 per parent, per child without any reduction for a second offence within 3 years.**

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 (*including Nike Air Force One*) as outlined on our school website. 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.

New 3G Sports Pitch & Appropriate & Safe Footwear - Advance Notice

As you will be aware from my recent correspondence, we are currently having a new state-of-the-art £1.25 million full-size and floodlit 3G Sports pitch constructed at the front of school. The new facility will be a fabulous addition to our school and community facilities once complete, and will provide our students and other community partners/users with a brilliant sporting resource. As a school we have been planning for this for many years, and with the support of the FA Football Foundation who have recently supported our grant application for additional funding, we are greatly looking forward to its completion and opening early in the Spring (date to be confirmed). The new facility will be available for our school use throughout the day, including for PE/Sports lessons, extra-curricular enrichment sessions, fixtures, and at social break times for supervised sporting use. The facility will also be available for community hire of an evening, weekend and during school holiday periods.

Whilst we look forward to its opening in the Spring, I wish to take this further opportunity now prior to this and also in advance of Christmas, to advise you that due to the specialist artificial grass material used, that students will only be able to use the facility if they have the correct and suitable footwear on. The footwear that is permitted includes specialist rubber or plastic studded soles suitable for artificial, hard and firm ground (please see the attached photographs of the example types which are allowed





to give you an idea). Due to the warranty and risk of damage to the new expensive artificial surface as well as health & safety, metal studded, plastic bladed boots, and flat soled trainers, including standard school shoes are not permitted for sporting use on the surface (please see some examples in red of which, along with school shoes, are not allowed for sporting use on the facility). Please note that students will not be able to use the facility at break and lunch times for social/recreational activity without wearing appropriate safe footwear. In addition, no food, sweets or chewing gum (which is banned in school anyway) can be consumed on the facility.

It may be advisable therefore, should you wish, for you to consider purchasing in advance an appropriate and approved safe type of footwear for your child to use on the facility later in the Spring term, and I inform you of this now to give reasonable time and opportunity to plan for this. Our Uniform, Equipment & Appearance Policy will also be updated for next year to include the approved safe footwear as a PE/Sports item.

We also appreciate however, given the current cost of living pressures, that for some families the purchase of a new pair of approved artificial surface sports/football boots or training shoes may be unaffordable part way through the school year, and therefore, we will as a school, be looking to purchase a central store of boots and training shoes in various different sizes that can be borrowed and used by students should they need during the school day or for extra-curricular activities/fixtures, so that no student who wishes to use the facility is barred from doing so on affordability grounds.

As mentioned previously, some examples are attached, of approved footwear highlighted in green, together with the types of footwear that are not allowed on the facility are also highlighted in red.

If you have any particular questions or queries regarding our new sports facility or the footwear required for use of it, please feel free to contact our Premises & Community Hire Manager, Mr Whitehead at the school on 0161 483 3622 or via email at p.whitehead@stockport.stockport.sch.uk

PERMITTED FOOTWEAR:

	<p>Artificial Ground (AG) RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Specifically designed for extra abrasion, these boots usually feature more numerous and densely concentrated studs that vary in height and may be hollowed out.</p>		<p>Firm Ground (FG) RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Sole plates feature moulded studs which are evenly dispersed across the foot to offer enhanced traction and comfort.</p>
	<p>Hard Ground (HG) RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Sole plates utilise a harder Thermoplastic polyurethanes compound for enhanced durability and typically feature multiple slightly shorter, evenly dispersed studs for optimal pressure distribution.</p>		<p>Turf Trainer (TF) ONLY WHEN DRY</p> <p>Otherwise known as Astro's, they feature a solid rubber outsole with numerous, small multidirectional lugs spread across the sole, which offer limited grip in wet conditions.</p>

FORBIDDEN FOOTWEAR:

	<p>Soft Ground (SG) TEAR THE SURFACE</p> <p>Sole features removable, replaceable screw-in studs and typically come in a six-stud configuration, with four at the forefoot and two at the heel.</p>		<p>Soft Ground Pro (SGP) TEAR THE SURFACE</p> <p>Also known as Hybrid or Mixed Stud, the sole plate comprises of a combination of conical screw-in studs and moulded studs, which are most commonly bladed.</p>
	<p>Blades CAN CAUSE INJURY</p> <p>Sole plates feature multiple straight slightly shorter, evenly dispersed studs that can restrict movement and turning which could cause injury.</p>		<p>Flat Sole (Indoor) NO GRIP & FLATTEN SURFACE</p> <p>Sole made up of non-marking materials such as moulded gum rubber and feature pivot points, flex grooves and herringbone patterns.</p>





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 (provided your household income is less than £7,400 a year after tax & not including any benefits you get)
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The “Guaranteed” element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (only with 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 check whether you meet the criteria. Checking whether you qualify and registering is really quick and easy – do it online at: <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Should you require any further information or help, please contact Miss O’Gara at c.ogara@stockport.stockport.sch.uk

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 2024.

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 2025-26 (Draft)

Autumn Term 2025

(Term Lengths: 8 weeks / 7 weeks)

*School will be closed to students on Monday, 1st September 2025 for staff training (INSET Day)

Begins: Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 at 11.20am (Year 7 only) (RED week)
Wednesday, 3rd September 2025 at 8:40am (Year 7 & Year 11 only) & at 11.20am (Years 8, 9 & 10)
Thursday, 4th September 2025 at 8.40am, all students begin their full teaching timetable

*School will be closed to students on Friday, 3rd October 2025 for staff training (INSET Day)

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 24th October 2025
Opens: Monday, 3rd November 2025 at 8.40am (RED week)

*School will be closed to students on Friday 28th November 2025 for staff training (INSET – *Disaggregated)

Ends: Friday, 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

(Term Lengths: 6 weeks / 5 weeks)

Begins: Monday, 5th January 2026 at 8.40am (BLUE week)

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 13th February 2026
Opens: Monday, 23rd February 2026 at 8.40am (BLUE week)

Ends: Friday, 27th March 2026

**School will be closed for Easter, inclusive of Good Friday on 3rd April 2026 & Easter Monday on 6th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

(Term Lengths: 5 weeks & 4 days / 7 weeks & 1 day)

Begins: Monday, 13th April 2026 at 8.40am (RED week)

**School will be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on Monday, 4th May 2026

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 22nd May 2026
Opens: Monday, 1st June 2026 at 8.40am (RED week)

Ends: Friday, 17th July 2026

*School will be closed to students on Monday 20th July 2026 for staff training (INSET – *Disaggregated)

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

- Monday, 1st September 2025
- Friday, 3rd October 2025
- Friday, 28th November 2025 (*Disaggregated)
- Monday 20th July 2026 (Disaggregated)

+1 TBC

