



STOCKPORT SCHOOL

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

4th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, the **spring term finishes for Easter on Friday, 11th April 2025**. Students will be dismissed at the usual time of 3.00pm, and in terms of attendance and progress, it is important that all students attend through until the official end of term on Friday 11th April.

The new summer term begins for all students on Monday, 28th April 2025 at 8.40am. Students should arrive on site for 8.35am.

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

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 the summer term in helping your child to **attend all 54 days** of the full summer term to achieve 100% attendance for the term and to be recognised and rewarded for that achievement.

Every day matters and each day missed hinders progress.

In terms of absence, 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 during the summer term.

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**.

2025-26 Term Dates

To support with attendance and avoid missing any school days, 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 to try and arrange any necessary medical appointments for the end of the school day.

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





Uniform, Equipment & Appearance

As part of our continual drive to maintain high standards and in line with our 'Ready to Learn' ethos, 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 that blazers must be worn and are not optional. Coats should not be worn inside the school buildings.

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 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 the summer term. 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 soon after Easter (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, I wish to take this further opportunity now, 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 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 after Easter, 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:

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|  <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:

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|  <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> |

Finally, as we approach the end of this spring term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers, for your incredible support once again over recent months, and I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for the upcoming Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mr I. R. Irwin
Headteacher





Term Dates 2025-26 (Provisional)

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

