



STOCKPORT SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

12th December 2025

As you will be aware, the **autumn term finishes for Christmas on Friday, 19th December 2025**. Students will be dismissed after having lunch, at the slightly earlier time of 12.20pm. Prior to this, the school will also finish slightly earlier than normal for students on Thursday 18th December, with students dismissed at the end of Period 5, 3.00pm, ahead of our annual Music Christmas Concert that same evening.

In terms of attendance and progress, it is important that all students attend through until the official end of term on Friday 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, 5th January 2026 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 at the start of next week if you would like to donate.

In support of our charities, we will also be running an optional Christmas jumper day on Wednesday 17th December, where for a suggested voluntary 50p - £1.00 charitable donation, our students and staff may come into school dressed in an additional festive jumper. Please note that Christmas jumpers are optional and that aside from this, all students are expected to wear normal full school uniform. Wednesday 17th December will also be the date when we offer a festive Christmas themed lunch which will run alongside our usual food offerings.

The cost of the Christmas Dinner is £2.60. We advise that parents ensure there is enough credit on their child's account ahead of time should they wish to purchase a Christmas Dinner. Students who are in receipt of free school meals can use their £2.60 FSM allowance to purchase a Christmas Dinner. However, should they wish to purchase any other items on that day (e.g., breakfast or at break time) then they will need to ensure that extra money is put on their account to afford these.

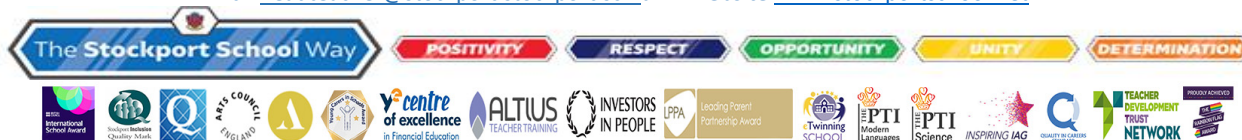
Parents' Evenings and Grade Cards

On Thursday, 22nd January 2026 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 21st 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 next week during our final week of term. 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 of any areas in which they may need to direct their attention to immediately from the start of 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, or Mr Beever, Deputy Headteacher.

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

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





Current 2025-26 Term Dates, and new Provisional 2026-27 Term Dates

I have also included with this letter a copy of the remaining spring and summer term 2026 term dates, as well as the provisional 2026-27 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 to avoid missing important time off school.

***Please also see the additional information on attendance and punctuality below, which contains important notifications on Government laws and expectations regarding unauthorised absence and lateness to school.**

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 continue to support us in helping your child to achieve well over 97% attendance.

I must also inform you of where the law has been changed **to address poor attendance, lateness to school, and specifically unauthorised absence**, where **increased Penalty Notice Fines are now expected to be issued for term-time leave (holidays or other unauthorised/unaccounted for absence) for where there are 10 x AM or PM sessions (5 days equivalent) missed during a 10-week period**. The increased fines amount to **£160 per parent, per child** (or reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days) for a first offence, which is then increased to **£160 per parent, per child without any reduction for a second offence within 3 years**. Please note that should there then be **a third or more offence within 3 years then it will be presented straight to a Magistrates' Court where fines can amount up to £2,500 per parent, per child**, and with cases found guilty at the Magistrates Court can then show on a parents future DBS certificate, due to a failure to safeguard a child's education.

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, to avoid your child being recorded as an unauthorised absence and at risk of the new Penalty Notice fines listed above.

Please also note that **if students arrive after 9.10am (more than 30 minutes late) then they must be marked as an unauthorised absence for the full morning session**. It is essential therefore, for their own educational benefit as well to avoid accumulating missed unauthorised sessions and potential expensive fines (as listed above), that students adopt good routines and arrive on time by 8.40am for the start of Form time each morning to potentially avoid being marked as an unauthorised absence.

All parents and carers are also reminded of the school policy upon requesting absence from school to attend medical or dental appointments during school hours. **Routine medical and dental appointments should be avoided where possible during the school day, with appointments ideally arranged outside of school hours**. As you will be aware, the NHS in the past few 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, or on the first day of absence, if no reason for absence is provided or we suspect the reason to be false, 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. **Every day matters and each day or part-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 can be found via this link - [Additional Study & Enrichment – Stockport School](#) and it is also published on our website 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.). If necessary, equipment like scientific 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 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, false nails/extensions, BIAB/Acrylic or Gel 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.

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.





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. 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.

Students are however, allowed at their own risk, to bring in their mobile phones. They must however, **after 8.20am, be switched off and put away out of sight, and not be taken out, looked at, or used in any way whatsoever, from when students enter through the gate in the morning until they 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.

Parents are also reminded not to try to phone or message children on their mobile phones during the school day as this will likely result in their child's phone being confiscated. Please contact the School Office if you need to send an important and urgent message to your child during the school day.

**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 waive 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.*

Bikes and Student Safety

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 during 2025 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 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 of how wearing a helmet saved the life of one of our students who was involved in a serious accident near to school.

This year, some students, have on rare occasion, sought against our rules, to bring very expensive electric bikes and/or scooters onto the school premises, which unfortunately has drawn some unwanted attention from youths in the locality, and we have had reports of students having their electric bikes and scooters stolen when riding around in the community. There is also an additional danger to the use of electric bikes on and around our busy school community, and as such, **students are reminded that they are banned from bringing electric bikes or scooters onto the school premises.**

Students should also note that all bicycles must be stored securely in our bike rack areas near to the Tennis Courts or Lake Street/3G Pitch. 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.

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

Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Changes

I wish to inform you that after an incredible 30 years and 4 months dedicated service to the Stockport School community, Mr Warren, Senior Deputy Headteacher, will be retiring next week at the end of term from his role as Senior Deputy Headteacher. Whilst retiring from his important senior leadership role, I am pleased to inform you that Mr Warren will continue his association with the school in a casual part-time role, as a consultant assisting with the timetable construction and other such matters as required. Mr Warren has been a highly valued and dependable senior leader of our school since September 1995, and I am sure you will all join me in recognising his outstanding commitment and service to the school and to our community, which has been first rate, and in wishing him all the very best in his semi-retirement.

To address the mid-year change to the senior leadership team, the Governing Body and I are pleased to confirm the following promotions and changes within the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) structure:

- **Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mr P. Rough**
- **Deputy Headteachers: Mr R. Clifford & Mr C. Beever**
- **Associate Deputy Headteachers: Mr A. Hinton & Ms. J. Irwin**
- **Assistant Headteachers: Miss C. O’Gara & Mrs C. Robinson**
- **Associate Assistant Headteachers: Miss G. Ormerod & Mr P. Griffith**

I am sure you will wish to join me in congratulating the individual members from our Senior Leadership Team, listed above, who have secured well-deserved promotions, and in wishing them all the very best in their new important roles. The governors and I are extremely confident and reassured that we have an exceptional Senior Leadership Team in place at Stockport School to help us continue our drive for further success, improvement, and in support of staff, students, and our wider community.

Outside of the Senior Leadership Team, there are also three other members of staff who will be leaving Stockport School at the end of this term for pastures new or to enjoy retirement; they include:

Mr M. Liddle	Pastoral Assistant	6 months	New Head of Year role at another school
Mrs E. Warren	SEND Year Team Leader - HLTA	10 years & 4 months	Retirement
Miss S. Willett	Academic Mentor - mathematics	10 years & 4 months	New role at Trafford & Stockport College

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

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 2025.

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



POSITIVITY

RESPECT

OPPORTUNITY

UNITY

DETERMINATION





Term Dates 2025-26 (Current Year)

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: Tuesday, 24th February 2026 at 8.40am (BLUE week)

*School will be closed to students on Monday 23rd February for staff training (INSET Day)

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*)

Term Dates 2026-27 (Provisional Draft)

Autumn Term 2026

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

*School will be closed to students on Tuesday, 1st September 2026 for staff training (INSET Day)

Begins: Wednesday, 2nd September 2026 at 11.20am (Year 7 only) (RED week)
Thursday, 3rd September 2026 at 8.40am (Year 7 & Year 11 only) & at 11.20am (Years 8, 9 & 10)
Friday, 4th September 2026 at 8.40am, all students begin their full teaching timetable

*School will be closed to students on Friday, 9th October 2026 for staff training (INSET Day)

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 23rd October 2026
Opens: Monday, 2nd November 2026 at 8.40am (RED week)

Ends: Friday, 18th December 2026

Spring Term 2027

(Term Lengths: 6 weeks / 4 weeks & 4 days)

Begins: Monday, 4th January 2027 at 8.40am (BLUE week)

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 12th February 2027
Opens: Monday, 22nd February 2027 at 8.40am (BLUE week)

Ends: Thursday, 25th March 2027

**School will be closed for Easter, inclusive of Good Friday on 26th March & Easter Monday on 29th March 2027

Summer Term 2027

(Term Lengths: 6 weeks & 4 days / 6 weeks & 2 days)

Begins: Monday, 12th April 2027 at 8.40am (RED week)

**School will be closed for the May Day Bank Holiday on Monday, 3rd May 2027

Half-Term: Closes: Friday, 28th May 2027
Opens: Monday, 7th June 2027 at 8.40am (BLUE week)

Ends: Friday, 16th July 2027

*School will be closed to students on Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th July 2027 for staff training (INSET – *Disaggregated*)

**Plus, 1 additional Staff INSET day to be confirmed



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