

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of the Summer term rapidly approaches and thoughts begin turning to the new academic year, I wanted to provide some updates to ensure our expectations for students' return and conduct are understood.

We are looking forward to welcoming students back into our school community on **Thursday 5th September 2024**. In order to facilitate a smooth transition into the building, each Year Group will benefit from a staggered start to enable the pastoral team to deliver a bespoke programme of activities which will focus on student wellbeing and reinforcing our Top Class expectations.

The table below provides an overview of the staggered start, please pay particular attention to the start time for your child and the area within which they should meet their pastoral team:

First Day Arrangements: Thursday 5th September 2024

Year Group: 2024-25	Arrival time:	Entry To Site:	Meeting Point:	Departure Time:
Year 7	8.30am	Front Gate	Assembly Hall	2.50pm
Year 8	10.00am	Front Gate	Front of School	3.00pm
Year 9	10.00am	Front Gate	MUGA	3.05pm
Year 10	11.00am	Front Gate	MUGA	3.10pm
Year 11	11.30am	Front Gate	Front of school	3.10pm

Uniform Expectations:

The Top Class Student initiative has been highly successful, and has led to a strong upward trend in student achievements, which is impacting positively on our standards.

As we start the new academic year it is important that all students continue to strive to maintain these high standards in all aspects of their learning and conduct.

Please support us in the drive to raising standards, by ensuring your child is ready to start the new term with the correct uniform and equipment detailed below. Should you require any assistance with meeting these expectations, please do not hesitate to contact a representative from your child's year team.

Students must wear:

- a Stopsley High School branded blazer, a white shirt, and a school tie either black tailored trousers (**corsets, jeans, leggings, skinny fit or fashion trousers cannot be worn**) **OR** a black tailored skirt of an appropriate length - skirts should be knee length or just below (**lycra or tight fitting skirts are not allowed including no splits**)
- appropriate black school footwear (no coloured stitching, logos, laces or soles)
- plain white, grey or black socks or black tights
- for PE lessons the branded polo top, sports jacket and black shorts or training pants

In addition:

- no jewellery is to be worn, apart from one small, plain stud in each ear lobe, one plain ring and an analogue watch
- hair must be of a natural colour with no lines or patterns, or extreme styles
- no eyebrow patterns including shaved lines are permitted
- any hair bands should be plain black or navy only (no patterns, bright colours, bows or polka dots)
- No make-up, tinted moisturiser or coloured nail varnish is permitted. Acrylic, gel or any form of fake nails are not permitted.

Branded items of the uniform can be purchased online:

<http://www.prestigedesignwww.co.uk/live/>.

To further support our high expectations moving into the new academic year, please take the time to familiarise yourself and your child with the updated [Positive Behaviour Policy 2024/2025](#). If you could confirm that both you and your child have read and understood the policy by returning the attached [survey](#) by Tuesday 3rd September 2024, we would be grateful.

I would like to draw your attention to our updated stance on mobile phones. Research illustrates ([please see Mobile phones in schools Guidance from the Department for Education February 2024](#)) that addiction to 'smartphones' is unhealthy and evidence shows that a break from screen time during the school day benefits students. Safeguarding students and staff whilst in our school environment from unwanted photographs, recording and videoing without permission and unkind or inappropriate comments made on social media, remains a priority.

We have trialled successfully over the course of the academic year with Years 7, 8 and 9 students handing in their phones at the start of the school day to their tutor, who then stores the phones safely in a securely locked location. Mobile phones are then returned to students at the end of a school day during afternoon registration. This initiative has significantly reduced the number of online safeguarding incidents and improved students' focus when in the classroom setting.

On our return from the Summer Break, this expectation will be rolled out to all students. Students have received a series of reminders outlining the rationale for the change in expectation and will receive further reminders on our return. The reminders have outlined the following:

- 1) Mobile phones should be handed in at the start of the day to your tutor.
- 2) Any phone that is not handed in and is seen, heard or its use suspected, (this includes listening to music), will be confiscated and only returned upon meeting with a parent. This includes phones on display in pockets. The restriction is in place at all times when students are on the school premises, this includes when students arrive and leave at the end of the school day. Phones should be away before students enter the school grounds, handed into their tutor during tutor time, and subsequently not accessed until they have left the school site.
- 3) For repeat offences, students will be banned from bringing their mobile phones onto the school premises.
- 4) Should students wish to contact parents at the end of the school day with any concerns or for collection following being engaged in an extracurricular activity, then they are asked to report to the student hatch.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your child does not use their mobile phone at all whilst on school site.

The pastoral team and I look forward to welcoming your child back into our community; should you have any queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact a member of your child's pastoral team, using the updated contact points below:

<u>Year Group:</u> <u>2024/25</u>	<u>Year Manager:</u>	<u>Contact email:</u>	Key Stage Senior Links:
7	Mr B Blanchard	bblanchard@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk	<u>Key Stage 3:</u> <u>Year 7:</u> Mr L Rowles lrowles@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk <u>Year 8 & 9:</u> Ms S Mitchell smitchell@stopleyhighschool.co.uk
8	Mrs E Anastasio	eanastasio@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk	
9	Mrs B Kidney	bkidney@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk	
10	Mrs N Bennett	nbennett@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk	<u>Key Stage 4:</u> Mr K Davies kdavies@stopelyhighschool.co.uk Mrs B Huni bhuni@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk
11	Ms J McIntosh	jmcintosh@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk	

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P. Whiting
Senior Deputy Headteacher