



THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher
Mrs C. A. Dean B.A. (Hons), NPQH

Re – Return to school

As we approach the end of the summer holidays, the staff at The Stonehenge School look forward to welcoming students back to the 2024/2025 academic year. With the second phase of the new build now complete, and lots of extensive building works occurring during the summer break throughout the rest of the school, these truly are exciting times at The Stonehenge School and we want all of our students to be able to make the most of their time with us.

A reminder that our new Year 7 will be joining us on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 with all other year groups (years 8-11) joining us on Wednesday 4th September 2024. The new school day runs from 8.30-15.00.

Parent information booklets

We would like to thank all our parents for their continued support. It has been a year where once again external visitors have commented on the good behaviour and manners of our students, and this is a credit to parents supporting the high expectations we have.

In order for the 2024/2025 academic year to get off to a positive start, we have attached an updated version of the parent information booklet for your consideration. Please can you familiarise yourself with its contents and in particular tick the class charts box indicating that you have read and are happy to enter into the home/school agreement.

It is worth noting that there have been some changes to the information booklet, mainly due to changes in DFE guidance or legislation. In order for your child to have a successful start in September, key points of interest are detailed below.

Attendance

Good attendance has always been important. There is new statutory guidance coming into effect in relation to attendance (as per letter from Wiltshire Council placed on ClassCharts). Attendance rates in schools are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels with 95% being a minimum expectation. In the coming academic year, we will notify you when your son/daughter drops below 95% attendance. This will be for information only and the school attendance process will only be triggered if your child's attendance continues to decline.

Another change you need to be aware of is the tightening of the rules in terms of taking children out during term time. There are now only very few situations that schools are advised to authorise term time absence. This is explained in more detail in the information booklet on P.14 and 15. Please be advised that penalty notices are now rising to £160 per parent per child. Schools will now only be able to issue 2 penalty notices in a 3-year period with a third offence going straight to court proceedings. It is really important to us that children come to school because they want to. If there are ever any barriers to your child's good attendance, please contact the school so we can work together to resolve these



Mobile Phones

As explained in the letter sent out earlier in the year, the government expects all schools to become mobile free sites from September 2024. This means that children may not have their phones out whilst on the school site. This includes before and after the school day. Children may have their phones switched off at the bottom of their bags. However, if they are caught with their phones in school, **these will be confiscated for parental collection only**. We have been reminding students of this change in expectation since Easter and hope that this will not cause any issues in the coming academic year. Should your child have their phone confiscated, can we please ask you not to contact staff and expect them to breach this policy. All our staff want to work positively with our parents and asking them to breach school policy puts them in a difficult situation.

Uniform

In order for students to start the academic year on a positive note, we would like to ask your support in ensuring your son/daughter returns to school with the correct uniform and equipment. Our uniform policy is available online at https://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/app/uploads/2022/09/Uniform-Policy-2022_.pdf and can be found on page 7 of the Parent Booklet.

Please can we ask you to use the summer period to check skirts and trousers. Skirts should be just above knee length (and not upper thigh length) and trousers should be loose fitting rather than skin-tight. Uniform should be smart and business-like and show a willingness to learn.

We would like to draw your attention to particular sections of the policy that students sometimes forget over the holiday period:

- The School Skirt. This must be the pleated "Davenport" style. It may not be rolled up.
- School trousers must fit properly and not be too tight.
- Only black socks are permitted.
- Girls should wear tights or ankle socks rather than knee high socks.
- Smart school shoes only are permitted. Boots, Trainers, Canvas daps etc. are not allowed.
- Nail varnish, false nails and false eyelashes are not allowed.
- Hair should not be dyed in an unnatural colour, nor bleached.
- Extreme hairstyles are not allowed; this includes tramlines or "cat scratches"
- Jewellery is restricted to one stud ear-ring in the lower ear lobe, a watch and one ring.
- Facial piercings are not allowed and nor are plastic retainers.
- No sports branded items (hoodies/jumpers/socks/shoes).
- Black V neck jumpers may only be worn in cooler weather as well as a blazer, not instead of.

Adjustments to the uniform can only be requested in writing to the Headteacher if relevant to the disability act or an EHCP.

A uniform entitlement of a free blazer, tie and PE top are available for those entitled to Free School Meals, and those who fall under the Ever6 category.

We would like to thank the overwhelming majority of you who send your child to school smartly dressed in full uniform every day and thereby supporting the school ethos. Students will return to school to an extended tutor period where the school ethos will be explored. Any student not in correct uniform will be sent home to change and will not be permitted to access lessons until the issue is rectified. We very much hope that advance notice will mean this situation does not arise.

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Equipment

In addition to basic school equipment such as a pen, pencil, rubber and ruler, a pencil case and suitable schoolbag, students at The Stonehenge School are also expected to bring these items daily:

- A Reading Book
- Their Study Journal if in Years 7 and 10
- A Calculator if in Years 9-11
- A Water Bottle
- If possible, a Green Pen for correcting and improving work.
- Safe school scissors, glue and colouring pencils are desirable.

One aspect that we would like to draw your attention to is the necessity to bring a school bag to school. Students can not possibly carry the daily required equipment in their blazers, especially with the introduction of study journals. Please can we ask you to provide your son/daughter with a suitably sized bag for upcoming academic year.

PE kit

Please ensure your child brings PE Kit to school on the days that they have PE.

This consists of:

- Performance PE top branded with The Stonehenge School logo
- 1 plain black item from the selection of shorts or skort, with a choice of plain or branded
- 1 Pair of plain black socks and Sports Trainers

Designer branded sportswear is not part of the Stonehenge School PE Kit.

School drop off

We are now a year into the new school start and finish times. However, the persistent lateness of a minority of students means we are reminding all parents that students should be sat in tutor by 8.30 at the latest. Having had a year to adapt to the new school day, students should expect a same day detention should they continue to arrive late to school without good reason.

Can we also request that children should not be dropped directly at school? The traffic situation is currently putting children at risk on Holders Road. For the sake of all the children's safety can we request that you use the supermarket car parks as drop off points.

We are genuinely grateful to all the support parents and carers give us in helping to ensure that Stonehenge School remains a safe school with smartly dressed, well-organised and resilient students who are ready to fully engage with learning on a daily basis.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C A Dean
Headteacher

