



27th March 2026

Dear SNHS Families

As we reach the end of term, I want to extend a sincere thank-you to all students, staff and families for the positivity, kindness and determination shown during the Spring Term. Across classrooms, corridors and the wider community, we continue to see our values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience lived out in so many small but important ways. It has been another full and productive week at SNHS, and I'm delighted to share some of the highlights with you.

This Week at SNHS

Leadership Update

We would like to inform families that Mrs London-Hill will be leaving her role as Executive Headteacher of Shaftesbury School and Sturminster Newton High School at the end of March. We thank her for her dedication and service to both schools and wish her every success in her next steps.

Year 11 Reward Tea

On Thursday, our Year 11 Reward Tea brought together students who have demonstrated exceptional attitude and resilience over recent months. With tea, sandwiches and cakes served by Mr Motteram and Ms Allen, it was a lovely opportunity to recognise our students.

Years 9 & 10 Thorpe Park Reward Trip

Today we are taking students on a reward trip to Thorpe Park to celebrate their excellent engagement and attitude. We hope they have a brilliant time and thank staff for their efforts in organising this event.

SAST Trust Student Voice Forum

On Tuesday, we hosted the SAST Trust Student Voice Forum, welcoming students from across the trust. It was a powerful and thoughtful afternoon, giving young people an important role in shaping school improvement and demonstrating real responsibility in action

PE Sporting Success

A strong week for our PE teams:

- Year 7 Football: 3–2 win vs Gryphon
- Year 11 Football: 5–4 win vs Gryphon
- Year 8 & 9 Netball: Excellent performances against Blandford

Well done to all students who have represented us in the great number of fixtures and clubs that have taken place. It has been a real pleasure to see the school values played out on the sports field/courts.

Maths Department Update

We are very pleased to confirm that Mr Baguley will be joining SNHS on 11th May as our new Head of Maths and Associate Assistant Headteacher for Maths. Thank you to families for your patience while we secured the right specialist after a period of disruption — we are really excited for the expertise and stability this will bring.

Year 11 & 13 Revision Day

A reminder that our Revision Day takes place on Monday 13th April for Year 11 and Year 13 only. This valuable session will provide targeted support across core and option subjects. Pizza will be provided to keep everyone fuelled. Families should refer to the letters from Mr Chapman for full details.

Cont/.....





Attendance Matters

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring strong attendance — it directly affects progress, confidence and long-term success.

This week's attendance figures are:

- Year 7 – 96.1%
- Year 8 – 91.8%
- Year 9 – 90.1%
- Year 10 – 89.3%
- Year 11 – 87.5%

These figures are broadly in line with last week, and there is a lot to celebrate — especially in our lower school. Year 7 continue to set the bar high with excellent attendance, and both Year 8 and Year 9 are showing real commitment in keeping their attendance above 90%. Their positive habits reflect impressive levels of responsibility and resilience, and they should be proud of the example they are setting.

For Year 10 and Year 11, we want to offer a warm but clear message. We absolutely recognise the pressures and challenges that come with these crucial stages of school life. We know our students are working hard, and we are proud of them. At the same time, attendance below 90% means significant learning is being missed — sometimes equating to weeks of lost lessons over time. With GCSE exams taking place, this lost learning could have a huge impact on their chances of success.

Our commitment is to support Years 10 and 11 every step of the way, but we do need attendance to improve so that students can make the progress they are capable of. Every day matters, and every lesson truly counts as we move into the most important part of the year.

Thank you for your partnership in helping build the routines and resilience that make a real difference.

Next Week at SNHS

INSET Day – Monday 13th April

A reminder that only Year 11 and Year 13 students should attend school for the Revision INSET Day. All other students are not required in school. School is back open for all Year Groups on Tuesday 14th April.

Year 12 Trip - Bournemouth University

We are delighted to offer the chance for our Year 12 students to attend the UCAS Discovery Event taking place at Bournemouth University on Wednesday 15th April. This should be a fantastic opportunity to look into the world of university and find out about what courses and opportunities are available when they finish their A Level and BTEC studies.

Site Update – Asbestos Removal (Easter Holidays)

Planned asbestos removal will take place during the holiday. Contractors will be on site, and the school will be closed to everyone else. This is routine and nothing to be concerned about but we wanted families to be aware in case they see increased contractor activity during the Easter period.

Cont/.....





- 3 -

Summer Uniform Reminder

As the weather improves and we return for the summer term, a reminder that our summer uniform comes into place. This permits students to wear:

- School polo shirt
- Tailored shorts if they wish (black)
- School Blazer

A reminder that we still expect students to wear black socks and our jewellery expectations remain unchanged.

Thank you for helping us maintain high standards and we hope the summer uniform continues to provide comfort and practicality as we hopefully welcome some warmer weather.

Year 10 Mock Exams

We return with the Year 10 mock exams taking place and I know a great number of students have been busy revising and preparing for this important assessment period. I thank families for their support of revision at home and know when our students return they will approach these important assessments with the diligence and commitment required.

As the term draws to a close, I want to offer my appreciation to all our families. It has been a term of real growth for our school and especially the young people we serve. Whether it has been a trip, a club, a sports fixture, an English or a Maths lesson, I continue to be exceptionally proud of everything we achieve together. As we enter the Summer Term, I look forward to maintaining this growth and also guiding our community through some upcoming events. We are anticipating OFSTED visiting us in the summer term and are excited to showcase we have achieved in recent years as a school (and everything we are embedding for the future). We also have our students sitting their formal assessments and exams and know this is a crucial period for their future. We will give our full support as they navigate this difficult and challenging period and want to reassure parents of our commitment to your child as they return to our care after a well deserved Easter break.

I wish our entire school community a period of rest, recovery, joy and time spent with loved ones over the Easter period (and perhaps a little bit of chocolate too).

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram

Head of School

