



1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear SNHS Families

A big welcome to our weekly newsletter after another warm and sunny week, albeit a little windy at times. We have made the most of the weather this week, with lots of social time taking place outdoors at break and lunch. It has been wonderful to see so many students enjoying our fantastic outdoor spaces — playing football and rounders, throwing a ball around, or simply sitting and talking with friends. It has been a real pleasure to see students making such positive use of fresh air and space and spending time connecting with each other.

It has been another busy week at Sturminster Newton High School, and I am pleased to share a snapshot of what we have been up to, to keep families informed and connected with school life.

## **What has happened at SNHS this week**

On Wednesday, 32 of our Year 7 students took part in the UK Maths Challenge. We are incredibly proud of the way they approached this national challenge and are looking forward to finding out how they have fared. It was a brilliant effort from all involved, showcasing our values or responsibility for their learning and resilience for taking on this academic challenge.

Practical examinations have continued this week across a range of subjects including Food Technology, Resistant Materials, Design and Technology, Photography, Music and French Speaking. Students have been conducting themselves brilliantly, showing real responsibility and maturity, while staff have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. We are very proud of how these assessments have been approached and also thank families for their support with preparing, revision and emotional support during these moments of heightened anxiety and stress for the young people.

Year 10 students welcomed our Careers Coordinator, Mr Martin, to their assembly this week to explore options beyond Year 11. Using the metaphor of a roundabout, students were encouraged to understand that while there are many possible exits available, it is important to start thinking carefully about which route is right for them. These conversations are an important part of preparing for the transition into Year 11 and we would ask Year 10 families to continue these conversations and research into options at home so that it becomes a regular topic of discussion and planning.

On Wednesday, a number of Year 11 and Year 13 students attended one-to-one support meetings with members of the Leadership Team to discuss the upcoming examination period and the support available in the final lead-up. We hope families found these conversations helpful and that students feel well supported as they enter the final stretch before written exams begin.

Cont/.....





- 2 -

Both Year 11 and Year 13 continue to focus intensely on preparations for their written examinations, with the first papers now only a week or so away. Year 11 Masterclasses will take place on the final day before their core exams, helping to sharpen exam technique and confidence. Alongside revision, we continue to emphasise the importance of balance, wellbeing and mental health during this demanding period, and we are grateful to families for the support and encouragement provided at home.

Thank you to all families for supporting our renewed focus on summer uniform expectations. We have seen a clear improvement this week, with far fewer incidents relating to jewellery and uniform. We will continue to maintain high standards, but we are appreciative of the positive and supportive response from families.

We have been made aware that families who use the CR4 bus service will experience disruption between 8<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May, due to a road closure. Dorset Council's Travel Team has contacted affected families directly; however, if you have not received this information or require further support, please contact Dorset Travel at [dt@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:dt@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk) before Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

### Attendance matters

Our current attendance figures this week are:

- **Year 7:** 96.2%
- **Year 8:** 91.6%
- **Year 9:** 90.6%
- **Year 10:** 89.3%
- **Year 11:** 87.2%

Compared with last week, Year 7 continue to lead the way, maintaining very strong attendance — well done to students and families for this continued commitment. Years 8 and 9 remain broadly in line with recent trends, while Years 10 and 11 continue to be an important focus as examinations approach.

High attendance remains one of the strongest predictors of success, particularly at this critical time of year. We are incredibly proud of all students who continue to attend well and thank families for supporting the message that every day matters.

### What's coming up at SNHS next week

On Thursday, Year 9 students will be off timetable for a Young Enterprise Careers Event, where they will develop their understanding of economic and financial education. Students will take part in a series of challenges designed to test their problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills — we are excited to see how they rise to the challenge.

Cont/.....





- 3 -

Over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, the Ten Tors Challenge takes place on Dartmoor. Fingers crossed for favourable weather conditions as we wish all our participating teams the very best of luck. They have trained exceptionally hard for this event and will undoubtedly demonstrate our core values of Respect, Responsibility and, most importantly, Resilience alongside hundreds of other young people from across the country. It promises to be a very special weekend.

As we head into the weekend, may I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable break. We are also looking ahead to the Bank Holiday Monday when it arrives, and hope families have a chance to enjoy some well-earned time together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram

Head of School

