



8th May 2026

Dear SNHS Community,

A warm welcome to all our families and parents. Although this has been a shorter week due to the bank holiday, it has certainly remained a busy and purposeful one here at Sturminster Newton High School. There has been a great deal taking place both in and beyond the classroom, with students engaging in opportunities that build confidence, teamwork and character alongside their academic learning. As always, thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure the very best outcomes for our young people.

What has happened at SNHS this week

Year 7 Cricket V Gillingham

We enjoyed a brilliant evening of cricket as our Year 7 students played their first game of the season against Gillingham. For many, this was their first experience of hard ball cricket, and students adapted impressively throughout the game. All players represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating teamwork, effort, responsibility and a positive attitude towards PE. We are very proud of how they conducted themselves and look forward to watching their continued development.

Young Enterprise Challenge Day

On Thursday, we welcomed *Young Enterprise* into school to work with our Year 9 students as part of their Enterprise Challenge Day. The day focused on economic and financial education and culminated in a challenging and engaging competition where students pitched an idea to a panel of judges.

We were incredibly proud of the way our students conducted themselves throughout the day. They supported one another, listening respectfully, took responsibility for their own pitches, and demonstrated outstanding teamwork and resilience. Well done to Year 9, and thank you to all staff involved, particularly Mr Dodman, for organising such a valuable event.

North Dorset Athletics Event, Yeovil

A team of students represented SNHS at the annual North Dorset Athletics Event in Yeovil, competing against other schools across a wide range of track and field events. Students showed resilience and responsibility in both their performances and the way they represented their school. We are very proud of all their achievements and would like to thank the PE staff who supported the event.

Assemblies -Online Safety and Deepfake Images/Videos

Throughout the week, we welcomed the police into school to deliver assemblies focused on the use of AI to create deepfake images and videos. This follows some recent concerns and is an issue we take incredibly seriously. Students engaged respectfully throughout, and we hope the sessions encourage them to demonstrate responsibility as they navigate an increasingly complex digital world.





Staffing Updates

We are delighted to confirm the appointment of Miss Burnett as our new French Teacher. Miss Burnett is currently working within our French department and will be joining us full time from September. She brings strong subject knowledge, expertise and a highly relational approach, which will complement the excellent work already taking place alongside Ms Woods in our high-achieving French department.

We are also interviewing today for a Teacher of Maths role and I look forward to hopefully sharing positive news with families next week.

Ten Tors Final Expedition

Friday marks the start of the Ten Tors Final Expedition on Dartmoor. We wish all our teams the very best of luck as they take on this incredible challenge, having worked so hard in preparation. They will be demonstrating all of our core values, responsibility, respect and, most importantly, resilience alongside hundreds of other young people from across the country. It promises to be a very special weekend, and I am heading down myself on Friday evening to wish the students well. Please keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.

Year 11 Masterclasses begin

Our first GCSE masterclass also takes place on Friday ahead of the English GCSE Paper on Monday morning. This focused session will provide Year 11 students with targeted preparation to support their weekend revision and ongoing work during this crucial exam period.

Attendance Matters

Attendance remains a key priority and is fundamental to student success. Following the bank holiday week, attendance has dipped slightly in a number of year groups, therefore it is vital that students quickly return to strong routines.

- **Year 7:** 96.2%
- **Year 8:** 91.4%
- **Year 9:** 90.5%
- **Year 10:** 89.2%
- **Year 11:** 86.9%

A huge well done to Year 7, who continue to set an excellent standard and remain well above the 95% benchmark that puts students in the strongest position to succeed academically. We are incredibly proud of their commitment.

For our older students, particularly Year 11, attendance has never been more important as examinations begin. Every lesson, revision opportunity and intervention matters, and strong attendance is one of the clearest ways students can take responsibility for their success.





We remain very proud of those students who continue to attend well every day, showing resilience and commitment even during the most demanding periods of the year. Thank you to families for your continued support in reinforcing the message that every day in school really does matter.

What's coming up at SNHS next week

- We look forward to welcoming Mr Baguley as our new Maths Teacher, Head of Maths and Associate Assistant Head. This exciting appointment will ensure continued high-quality teaching in mathematics, and we are delighted to welcome him to the SNHS community.
- On Tuesday, we welcome the organisation My Time into school to deliver staff training focused on *Young Carer provision*. This partnership across SAST schools supports our ongoing commitment to identifying and supporting young carers and strengthening provision for this incredibly important group of young people.
- Monday marks the official start of the formal written GCSE and A Level examination season. Although many practical exams have already taken place, this is a significant milestone for our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students. We are extremely proud of how students have prepared, revising well, engaging positively with support and demonstrating respect, responsibility and resilience throughout. A sincere thank you to families for your vital role in supporting students at home during this time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. I wish all our students, particularly those taking part in Ten Tors and sitting exams, the very best for the days ahead. We remain incredibly proud of all they continue to achieve.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram
Head of School

