



15th May 2026

Dear SNHS Community

A warm welcome to all families after a very busy and productive one here at SNHS. With just one week now to go until half term, students and staff continue to show real focus, energy and commitment across all areas of school life.

This Week at SNHS

Welcoming New Staff

We were delighted to welcome Mr Baguley, who joined us this week as Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Maths. He has already made a fantastic start—meeting students, teaching classes and beginning his work with our strong and dedicated maths team.

We were also delighted to welcome Ms Emerson, our new TA, who is already working closely with many of our SEND students and providing a high level of support and care to them. She will also be an integral part of our new 'Pod' provision which is explained in a separate letter.

We are also very pleased to confirm the appointment of Ms Norman, who will be joining us in September as a teacher of Maths. Her experience and subject expertise will ensure we have a full complement of specialist maths teachers, which is something we are extremely proud of.

The Pod – New Provision for SEND and SEMH

Families will have received a separate letter today introducing The Pod, our new provision designed to support students with SEND and SEMH needs. This space will sit alongside our existing Hub and will offer targeted, therapeutic interventions to help students regulate, engage and thrive. We are inviting donations of small items to help create a calm and purposeful environment. Details are included in the letter sent home.

Headteacher Appointment

You will also have received a separate letter from Mr Paul Lavis, Director of Education at SAST, confirming my appointment as permanent Headteacher of SNHS following a formal recruitment process. I am exceptionally proud to have been given this opportunity and am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me to continue leading this wonderful school community. Day-to-day, very little will change as I transition from Head of School to Headteacher, but I remain fully committed to building on the strong foundations - including those recognised in our recent Ofsted inspection. Thank you for the faith, trust and support provided to me since I started in September 2024 - leading this school and taking responsibility for all in our community remains something I am incredibly passionate and proud to do.

Year 10 Mock Results – Brown Envelope Day

Year 10 received their mock exam results this week in our traditional 'brown envelope day'. This experience mirrors the real exam results process and provides an important moment for reflection. Students approached this with maturity and appropriate focus, and this forms a key part of their preparation as they move into Year 11. We also wanted to say a big well done to Year 10 after all their hard work and effort in preparing and sitting their mock exams.

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Year 11 and Year 13 Exams

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have continued with their formal exams, with a significant number of written papers taking place in the hall this week. A heartfelt thank you to:

- Students, for their resilience, focus and determination
- Staff, for their tireless preparation and support
- Families, for the routines, encouragement and reassurance

This collective effort is something we are incredibly proud of.

A reminder that we are running masterclass lessons each day before a core exam (English, Maths and Science) and our canteen is open from 8am each morning for exam students to have a snack, sit and complete some prep or if they simply wish to speak to a staff member and receive subject or pastoral support. Everyone is welcome.

Ten Tors Success

A huge well done to our Ten Tors teams, who completed the challenge last weekend after a year of dedicated training. They represented the school and wider community with distinction, showing grit, teamwork and resilience throughout. Students had a chance to wear their Ten Tors T-shirt and medal on Monday - there were definitely a few sore feet but some very full hearts after completing this epic challenge.

Young Carers – Staff Training

On Tuesday we welcomed the charity My Time, who delivered training to all staff on supporting young carers. This forms part of our ongoing commitment to identifying and supporting students with caring responsibilities. A reminder that Mrs Payne is our Young Carer Champion. If you believe your child may be a young carer, please contact the school so we can offer appropriate support.

Year 7–9 Exam Assemblies

Mr Chapman and Mrs Thompson led assemblies for Years 7–9 this week, focusing on their upcoming end-of-year exams for Year 7,8 and 9. These assessments help us understand student progress, plan future teaching and prepare students for more formal exams later in their school career - particularly helping identify those that require additional exams access arrangements. We ask families to support students with basic revision at home and to reinforce expectations around conduct in the exam hall.

Attendance Matters

This week's attendance figures:

- Year 7 – 96.2%
- Year 8 – 91.4%
- Year 9 – 90.5%
- Year 10 – 89.2%
- Year 11 – 86.8%

Compared with last week, Year 7 continue to lead the way with excellent attendance, and we are very proud of their consistency. Years 8 and 9 remain steady, and we are grateful to all families who continue to reinforce the importance of being in school every day. Strong attendance remains one of the biggest contributors to academic progress, wellbeing and long-term success.

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Next Week at SNHS

Year 10 Parents' Evening – Tuesday

An important opportunity to meet with staff, discuss progress and explore how we can continue to support your child. Please ensure bookings are made promptly. We look forward to welcoming families both virtually and in person.

Year 8 Relationships & Sex Education Drop Day – Thursday

This forms part of our statutory responsibility to deliver high-quality RSE. We appreciate the maturity with which students approach these important topics and the support families provide at home.

Reward Events and Assemblies

We finish the half term by celebrating the successes of our students, recognising excellent attendance, attitude and effort. These will take place across a series of assemblies, and we look forward to recognising and celebrating their hard work, responsibility, respect and resilience.

As we head into the final week of this half term, we ask students to maintain high levels of attendance, effort and engagement. A well-deserved break is on the horizon, but there is still plenty of valuable learning to come. Please ensure to prioritise attending school each and every day and working hard all the way up to 3pm on Friday.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is a privilege to lead this community, and I am grateful for the partnership we share between home and school.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram
Headteacher

