



12 June 2026

Dear Families

A warm welcome to all our community as we continue through our final half term. It has definitely been a week of focus and determination and as always, a strong sense of community across the school. Thank you for your continued support, as it plays a vital role in helping our students succeed and our school to thrive.

What has happened at SNHS this week

I would like to start by confirming our start of term arrangements for September and share these to support planning.

- **Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September** – INSET Days (staff training only; school closed to students)
- **Thursday 3rd September** – Return of Year 7, Year 11, and all Sixth Form students only
- **Friday 4th September** – Full return of all year groups

This staggered start, which mirrors previous years, allows us to give our new Year 7 students the very best possible welcome, while also ensuring that Year 11 and Sixth Form students begin the year with purpose and strong guidance as they embark on key examination years. It reflects our commitment to Responsibility - ensuring every student is set up for success from day one.

We are also very much approaching the finishing line for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have shown fantastic Resilience throughout the examination period. With one final Science exam remaining next week, we look forward to celebrating their journey together at the upcoming leavers' assembly on Monday - a moment to reflect with pride on all they have achieved. We also celebrate as our Year 13 students finish the last of their formal exams next week.

Elsewhere in the school, Year 12 mock examinations have begun, and our younger students in Years 7–9 continue with their assessments. It has been particularly pleasing to see students demonstrating Responsibility in their preparation and Respect for the importance of these assessments as part of their learning journey.

We are also incredibly proud of the wider recognition our school community has received following the publication of our recent Ofsted report. The positive coverage in the Dorset Echo highlights the strength of our school and, most importantly, the character of our students. Their conduct, attitudes and ambition truly embody our values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. **Read the article here:** [Sturminster Newton High School welcomes latest Ofsted report | Dorset Echo](#)

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Attendance Matters

- Year 7 – 96%
- Year 8 – 91%
- Year 9 – 91%
- Year 10 – 88%

A huge well done to Year 7, who continue to demonstrate excellent attendance and set the standard across the school. Also, a well done to Year 9 for their recent improvement in attendance. This reflects a strong sense of Responsibility towards their learning.

For Year 10, there is still work to do. As students move closer to their GCSE courses, strong attendance is absolutely critical. Missing even small amounts of learning can quickly add up and impact progress. Showing Resilience in attending every day, even when it feels challenging, is key to future success.

We remain incredibly proud of all students who attend well consistently. Their commitment does not go unnoticed. Strong attendance is one of the clearest ways students can show Respect for their own education and ambitions and achieve their potential while in school.

What's coming up at SNHS next week

- Year 12 mock examinations continue – we wish all students the very best as they demonstrate their knowledge and progress and look forward to the upcoming Year 12 Parents Evening at the end of the month, in which progress and outcomes can be discussed further.
- Year 11 Leavers Assembly - Period 3 and Period 4 on Monday. This will be a fitting opportunity to celebrate and say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 students as they finish their formal exams and embark on a well-deserved summer break.
- Tuesday – Year 10 Relationships and Sex Education Day - Students will be off timetable to take part in a programme of workshops and learning sessions. This is a vital statutory element of our curriculum, supporting students' personal development, wellbeing and understanding of the wider world. Our students consistently approach this day with maturity and Respect, and I would like to thank them in advance for the positive, thoughtful manner in which they engage.
- Thursday – Governing Body Meeting. - We look forward to welcoming our governors for their next full governing body meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued commitment to the school. Their work in providing both support and constructive challenge is vital in ensuring we continue to deliver the very best for our students.

At this meeting, governors will be reviewing our recent Ofsted experience in detail. This is an important opportunity to reflect on the many strengths identified, as well as to ensure that any areas for further development are fully understood and embedded within our school improvement priorities as we move towards the new academic year in September. This process reflects our shared sense of Responsibility and collective ambition to keep improving.

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As we head into the weekend, I would like to thank all members of our community for continuing to uphold the values that make Sturminster Newton High School such a special place to work and learn.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram
Headteacher

