



10th July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the SNHS Community

A very warm welcome to this week's newsletter. It has certainly been a hot week, but I have been incredibly proud of how our students and staff have responded. Throughout the warmer conditions, students have continued to work hard, look after one another and approach the week with maturity and common sense. Staff have also gone above and beyond to ensure learning has continued effectively whilst supporting student wellbeing. Thank you to everyone for helping us maintain such a positive atmosphere around the school - especially as the hot weather looks to continue into next week.

It has been another busy, productive and rewarding week at Sturminster Newton High School.

What has happened at SNHS this week?

Year 6 Transition Day

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students for their Transition Day at SNHS.

The day provided a fantastic opportunity for our incoming cohort to experience life at secondary school, take part in lessons, meet their tutors, make new friends and discover which House they will represent over the coming years. There was a real sense of excitement and enthusiasm throughout the day, and it was wonderful to see students embracing the opportunities ahead of them.

In the evening, we welcomed parents and carers into school to learn more about life at SNHS and to meet tutors and key members of staff. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone for any family, and we look forward to working closely with our newest students and their families as they begin their journey with us in September.

Annual Awards Evening

On Thursday evening, we held our Annual Awards Evening, one of the highlights of the school calendar.

The event was a wonderful celebration of the talent, character and achievements of our students. Awards recognised academic success, sustained effort, community contribution, sporting achievements, Ten Tors participation and many other accomplishments that make our school community so special.

The evening also gave us an opportunity to recognise and thank long-serving members of staff whose dedication and commitment have helped shape the lives of countless young people over many years.

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Events such as these serve as an important reminder that education is never the work of one person alone. It truly does take a village. The success of our young people is built upon the collective efforts of families, staff, governors, friends of the school and the wider community, all working together with a shared belief in helping every child succeed. Thursday's celebration was a fitting tribute to what can be achieved when a community comes together with ambition, belonging and support at its heart.

Uniform Expectations Next Week

With the warm weather forecast set to continue, we will maintain the same uniform adaptations that have been in place this week.

Students will continue to be permitted to wear their PE shorts during the school day to help ensure comfort whilst maintaining appropriate standards of dress. We appreciate the support of families in helping students remain smart, comfortable and ready to learn throughout this period of warmer weather. Please also ensure your child brings a water bottle, a hat and suncream to school.

Year 9 House Sport

Our Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic morning of House Sport this week, competing in pickleball, rounders and softball.

The event showcased everything that is great about House competition at SNHS. Students demonstrated excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and resilience. Participation levels were superb, and it was particularly pleasing to see students encouraging one another, celebrating success and embodying our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience throughout the afternoon.

A huge thank you to our PE team for organising another memorable event.

Blackout App and Mobile Phone Policy

We want families to be aware that in the Autumn term we will be phasing in some important changes to our mobile policies that will affect all students. Please can parents carefully read the attached letter outlining these changes, the timeline implementation plan and how to find out further information.

This change reflects new statutory government guidance coming into force from September, which states that **"all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default"** and that students should not have access to mobile phones during the school day.

We will begin with a phased introduction for our incoming Year 7 students before extending the approach to all year groups. Further information, including a parent webinar and student assemblies, will be shared at the start of the Autumn Term.

Thank you in advance for your support as we continue to create a calm, focused and distraction-free learning environment for all students.

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What's coming up at SNHS next week?

Activities Week!

Next week sees the return of one of the most anticipated weeks of the year – Activities Week.

Our school will be a hive of enrichment, adventure and opportunity, with students participating in an incredible range of activities both on and off site.

Visits include Harry Potter World, Legoland, Corfe Castle, Dorset Adventure Park, Go Ape and many more. Alongside these trips, a wide range of exciting activities will be taking place in school, ensuring every student has the opportunity to enjoy new experiences and create lasting memories.

Activities Week is a wonderful example of the broader opportunities available at SNHS and the importance we place on developing young people beyond the classroom.

French Trip

We wish our students and staff a very fond bon voyage as they depart for France.

The trip promises to be a fantastic cultural experience, taking in some of Normandy's most iconic locations including Mont Saint-Michel, Caen and Rouen, whilst also providing students with the opportunity to experience Bastille Day celebrations.

We hope everyone has an unforgettable trip and returns with wonderful memories and experiences to share.

Work Experience Week

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students will also be undertaking their Work Experience placements next week.

Work experience plays a vital role in helping students develop confidence, employability skills and an understanding of the world beyond education. We are extremely grateful to the many employers and organisations who have offered placements and opportunities for our young people.

We wish all students the very best and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.

Attendance Matters

Attendance remains a key priority for us, as every lesson truly does count.

As we enter the final stages of the academic year, it is important that students continue attending school every day and maintain positive routines right through until the end of term. Learning continues until the final day, and every lesson contributes to students' progress, confidence and success.

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Strong attendance helps students achieve their full potential, strengthens relationships with their peers and teachers, and ensures they do not miss valuable learning opportunities.

We therefore want all families to make a final push for excellent attendance over the coming days so that students can finish the year strongly and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Thank you once again for the support you continue to show our school.

The strength of the partnership is one of the things that makes our community so special, and we greatly appreciate the encouragement, trust and support that you provide throughout the year. This was particularly evident during our Awards Evening this week.

As always, please take care in the warmer weather, and I wish you all a wonderful weekend and look forward to sharing more of our students' successes with you next week.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram
Headteacher

