20th November 2026

Dear Families

Welcome to this week's newsletter. As we move further into November, school remains as busy as ever. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we continue to demonstrate our vision that It Takes a Village to Raise a Child.

What has happened at SNHS this week

Year 11 Mock Examinations Finish - Our Year 11 students have now completed their mock examinations, and I would like to congratulate them on the determination and resilience they have shown over the past two weeks. They have approached this important milestone with maturity and commitment, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts.

Mock examination results will be shared during the week beginning 7th December. This will provide students with an important opportunity to reflect on their performance, celebrate their successes and identify areas for further improvement. The key message for Year 11 is simple: build on the momentum created during the mocks and use the experience to strengthen preparation for the summer examinations.

Young Carers Employability Visit - a small group of our Young Carers enjoyed a valuable visit to Yeovil College and Hunts Food Service this week. Students explored employability skills, future education pathways and career opportunities, helping them to consider their next steps and aspirations beyond school.

What's coming up at SNHS next week

- Tuesday: SNHS will host the SAST Youth Voice Programme, bringing together young people from across our trust to discuss important issues and contribute towards positive change.
- Wednesday: We look forward to celebrating the achievements of last year's fantastic Year 11 cohort at our GCSE Awards Evening.
- Thursday: Year 11 students will take part in their annual RSE Day.
- Friday: Our Children in Need activities will take place during break and lunchtime around the Arches. There is no non-uniform day; however, students are encouraged to bring a small donation if they would like to take part in activities such as wheel spins, a bake sale and the ever-popular sponge-a-teacher challenge.

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Attendance Matters

- **Year 7:** 91.9% → **91.8%** (Overall: 93.0%)
  A very small change and attendance remains relatively stable. Our focus now is on maintaining consistency and ensuring students attend every day possible.
- **Year 8:** 96.2% → **91.6%** (Overall: 94.4%)
  Attendance was lower than last week's excellent figure. Year 8 however do continue to lead the school overall this year.
- **Year 9:** 88.8% → **90.1%** (Overall: 90.5%)
  A positive improvement this week. We would like to see this momentum continue as Year 9 work towards closing the gap with the older year groups.
- **Year 10:** 91.3% → **91.5%** (Overall: 93.9%)
  Another small but welcome improvement. Year 10 continue to demonstrate that good attendance habits are becoming well established.
- **Year 11:** 93.3% → **88.8%** (Overall: 90.1%)
  Attendance has dipped this week. Students have just completed a demanding programme of mock examinations and have shown tremendous resilience throughout, but we must work to improve this back towards the high figures seen in the last fortnight.

As we continue through the term, attendance will remain a major focus. Let's challenge ourselves to finish the term strongly by attending every day possible and ensuring that no learning is missed.

Thank you for your continued support of Sturminster Newton High School. The partnership between our students, families, staff and wider community plays a vital role in helping every young person succeed, and we are grateful for the encouragement and support you provide every day.

I hope you all have a restful weekend, and I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday for another exciting week at SNHS.

Warm regards





Mr M Motteram
Headteacher