

Head's Up!

Issue#9

7 November 2025

Stafford Manor
High School

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Dear Parents and Friends of Stafford Manor,

We have had a really positive start back to school this week and students have been rewarded again for their excellent attendance, positive behaviour and hard work with VIP lounge passes, Amazon vouchers and rewards points in ClassCharts.

Year 11 Mock Exams—click the link [here](#):

We have lots on again this term with Year 11 mock exams beginning week commencing 17th November. An outline of these can be seen below.

Year 11 Success Evening

We are also holding a Year 11 Success Evening on Thursday 13 November. This will take place start at 5.00pm for students and parents. Revision schedules, timetables for mock exams and access to resources will be available. You will have the opportunity to discuss aspects of learning and progress with Mr Chadwick, Heads of Year, Heads of Faculty as well as the Senior Leadership Team. This is a really important event for Year 11 students.

The evening will enable your child to receive support and key information about how you can support them at home throughout Year 11.

If you and your child attend next Thursday then they will be able to:

- gain entry into a draw to receive one of four free Year 11 Prom tickets.
- receive £10 off their Prom ticket.
- receive a free copy of revision guides for English, maths and science.
- receive a free copy of a how to revise booklet.
- receive a copy of their most recent report.
- receive a copy of their exam timetable.
- receive a copy of a revision timetable.
- attend a session on careers and next destinations, run by our careers lead.
- attend a session on website revision and how to begin planning a revision timetable.
- attend a session on English revision and how to use GCSE Pod, led by Mrs Parkes.
- attend a maths revision session and receive resources, led by Mr Taylor.
- talk to senior and pastoral leaders about any queries you may have and receive advice.
- talk to other professionals about next steps after Year 11.
- drink tea, coffee and cake and catch up with school staff and senior leaders- Hopefully the last one has clinched it for you!

Well done to all our children on positive start back this week.

Year 7 Settling in Evening went very well and was well attended. I hope families that came received all of the information they needed. We are so pleased with how Year 7 have started this year.

Attendance to school

Attendance to school continues to be 2% up on this point last year. Thanks you for continuing to support the school and continuing to ensure your children attend well. Those children who attend in line with the national average and above, go on to do exceptionally well at our school.

Best wishes,

Rhys Adams

Headteacher

Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable

Assessment Window 1: 17 November

17 Nov – 21 Nov	Session 1: P1-2		Session 2: P3-4		Session 3: P5	
	Exam:	Additional	Exam:	Additional	Exam:	Additional
Mon 17 Nov	Maths 1	09:45 - 11:15				
Tues 18 Nov	English Language	09:30 - 11:15	PE	12:00-13:30		
Wed 19 Nov			Business	11:45 - 13:30		
	DT Coursework - All Day					
Thurs 20 Nov	Maths 2	09:45 - 11:15				
Fri 21 Nov	DT Media	09:45 - 11:15 09:30 - 11:15				

24 Nov – 28 Nov	Session 1: P1-2		Session 2: P3-4		Session 3: P5	
	Exam:	Additional	Exam:	Additional	Exam:	Additional
Mon 24 Nov	Geography Option B & C	09:15-10:15	French Listening	11:45-12:30 (H) 11:55-12:30 (F)		
Tues 25 Nov						
Wed 26 Nov	English Literature	09:30 - 11:15			French Reading	14:15-15:15 (H) 14:30-15:15 (F)
Thurs 27 Nov	Maths 3	09:45 - 11:15				
Fri 28 Nov	Art and Textiles All Day					

*Subjects not listed above will be doing assessments in class.

OUR Values and Behaviour Expectations

Ready	Respectful	Responsible	Resilient
Attending every day	Using good manners	Being accountable	Staying on task
Being on time	Listening to my teacher	Knowing my role	Not giving up
Wearing full uniform	Respecting myself	Meeting deadlines	Avoiding distractions
Bringing my equipment	Showing others respect	Not blaming others	Coping with setbacks
Completing homework	Allowing others to learn	Managing my behaviour	Being comfortable to FAIL
Lining up quietly	Being calm	Doing my best work	Overcoming difficulties

School Vision and Values



'Every child reaching their full potential'



Community

- Safe and welcoming
- Proud of our school
- Inclusive and Equitable
- Focussed on People
- Celebrate Success



Aspiration

- High Expectations
- Ambitious for all
- Take the initiative
- Pursue Excellence
- Positive Destinations



Respect

- Excellent Behaviour
- Manners and honesty
- Listen and appreciate
- Show up every day on time
- Be kind, be learning

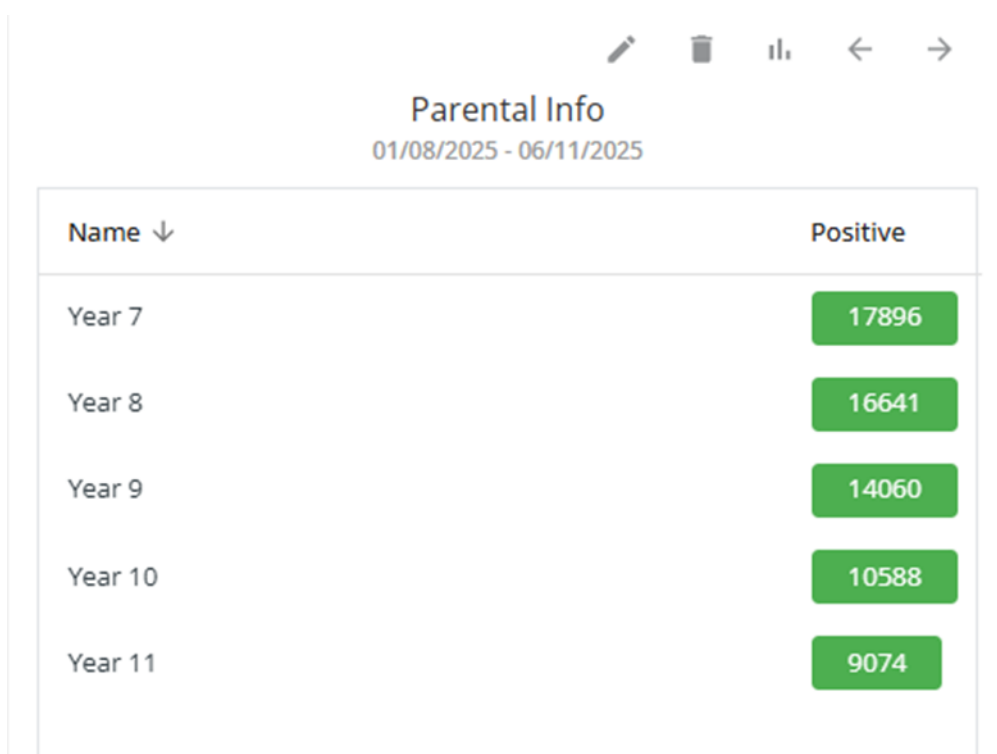


Endeavour

- Be determined
- Be resilient and bounce back
- Challenge yourself and others
- Work hard and don't give up
- The Struggle helps us develop



Class Charts – Behaviour and Achievement system



Rewards Criteria 2025-26

Christmas REWARD 2025 – More information will be released at the end of this week!!! A BIG reminder that behaviour in school and attendance in school matters

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Attendance	Less than 92%	92 % - 94% attendance	95% attendance or above
Behaviour	Behaviour points of 61 or more	No more than 60 behaviour points	No more than 10 Behaviour Points

Uniform Reminder

As we continue to uphold high standards at Stafford Manor High School, we'd like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of students wearing the correct school uniform each day.

Please ensure your child arrives at school in full uniform, ready to learn and represent our school with pride. Wearing the correct uniform supports a sense of belonging, encourages discipline, and reflects our shared commitment to excellence.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining these expectations.

Daily Uniform

Blazer – black with SMHS logo

Trousers – black matt material, front fastening with zip, side seams and full length leg under no circumstances will leggings or jeans be allowed

Shorts – black tailored shorts will be added to the school uniform during warmer weather. The school will advise all parents and students when the weather is warm enough for shorts to be worn. This is a change as a result of student and parent feedback but will only come into effect, when the school states these are allowed. Text messages and emails will be sent home to notify parents.

Skirt – black must be knee length

Shirt – white with collar must be fastened to neck and tucked in

Footwear – sensible all black footwear with no coloured logos, markings or laces

Socks/tights

Tie – SMHS tie

Jumper – A plain black V-neck jumper may be worn under the blazer but must not come below the length of the blazer and cannot be worn as an alternative to the blazer. Hoodies cannot be worn as an alternative to a V-neck jumper.

Hair

No hair styles considered unsuitable by the Headteacher may be worn at school.

Fashion haircuts such as steps, lines and shaved styles are not allowed.

Under no circumstances must a student dye, colour, streak or highlight their hair with an unnatural colour.

Make Up

Discreet/natural make up may be worn.

Jewellery

No jewellery should be worn except for a wrist watch and one set of small stud earrings, no other visible piercings are allowed.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that all items of jewellery are removed for PE/games lessons and for any loss or personal injury which may result through accident.

Nail jewellery, nail art and false nails are not acceptable, only discreet coloured nail varnish may be worn.

Assembly FOCUS this week

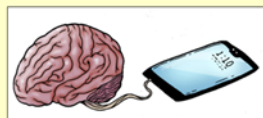
This weeks assembly have focused on our vision and values and a reminder for all students on the expectations we have in school on their behaviour, attendance and attitude to learning.

Mobile Phones



Stafford Manor
High School

Students *are* allowed to bring their phones but they must be **switched off/on silent** and out of sight. **This includes headphones too!** If we see them, we will confiscate them



If you need to contact your parents, please do so through the main office

How we want everyone to behave



Stafford Manor
High School

Ready	Respectful	Responsible	Resilient
Attending every day	Using good manners	Being accountable	Staying on task
Being on time	Listening to my teacher	Knowing my role	Not giving up
Wearing full uniform	Respecting myself	Meeting deadlines	Avoiding distractions
Bringing my equipment	Showing others respect	Not blaming others	Coping with setbacks
Completing homework	Allowing others to learn	Managing my behaviour	Being comfortable to FAIL
Lining up quietly	Being calm	Doing my best work	Overcoming difficulties

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There is no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetics, skins, music tracks, V-Bucks, and battle passes. Children can be persuaded to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while battle pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That's odd, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent combat touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put younger gamers at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular releases help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change themselves.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Austin: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-to-be-missed mechanism for seeking players into buying as up-to-date items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password inside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Loyal Coleman is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iDT, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Next week we will be looking to support National Anti Bullying Week



Free School Meals

We would encourage any parent to apply for free school meals. You can find out if you are eligible for this by clicking on the [link](#), or if you have any queries please contact the Free School Meal Department on 0300 111 8007. Once your application has been completed we would receive notification from Staffordshire County Council.

The free school meal allocation is £3.20 per day with the meal deal being the best value for money giving a main meal, desert and small bottle of water.

SMHS Community Support Hub And SMHS Food Hub

SMHS Community Support Hub and Food Hub are open every Wednesday and Friday for all our parents. You can pop along and have a coffee and a chat. There is also food available for collection to help support you.

The Community Support Hub is also open during our Parents Evenings.

Open to all– please come along

Wednesday—1.30—3.30 pm

Friday—11.00 am—1.00 pm