

Head's Up!

Issue#5

3 October 2025

Stafford Manor
High School

Wolverhampton Road
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST17 9DJ
Tel: 01785 258383
Email: Office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk



Dear Parents and Friends of Stafford Manor,

Another busy week at Stafford Manor High School has seen a range of activities take place to support students across a range of areas.

Monday 29 September—Art/Textiles students

On Monday 29 September, the Art/Textiles students visited Dudley zoo and will be drawing some of their photographs as part of their coursework. Our students were amazingly well behaved. Well done!

Thursday 2 October—Year 11 Higher Horizons

Higher Horizons completed their next final set of workshop with the Year 11 students. The students participated in three sessions on revision skills, exam techniques and English and Maths exam skills.

Friday 3 October—Year 11 Health and Social Carer Careers Roadshow

This is a health and careers focus event, which offered students a unique opportunity to discover the wide range of roles and pathways available in the sector.

Student Leadership Team Meeting— Tuesday 7 October – Tutor time - Stafford Room



Current Student Leadership teams

- Teaching & Learning/Curriculum
- School Environment
- Inclusion/behaviour and rewards.
- Student support
- Well Being and mental health.

These groups might change if children have better ideas and I am really interested to get students views and ideas about how we can make this even bigger and better this year, so please do encourage them to attend.

Parent Governor

We are delighted to inform you that Julie Riglar has been appointed as a Parent Governor. Julie will now be representing parents at our governor meetings for the next four years.

Attendance—We now have a dedicated phone line to report student absence. Please ensure you use this when reporting your child's absence.

Best wishes,

Rhys Adams
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards—Friday 26 September 2025

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Freya Capewell	Jaida Allam	Dalila Salvador	Kelis Davidson	Samantha James
Faris Idzwan	Stiliyan Georgiev	Kiera Monaghan	Lexi-Rebeka Mason	Millie Dodd
Rose Kour	Heidi Edmonds	Jaiden Craig	Ellise Kelly	Harry Mulrooney
Ella Mapunda	Saihajpreet Kooner	Jacob Stopka	Bobbie Kendrick	Cole Reeves
Alvin Hanson	Lily Barnikowska	Olivia Gee	Leila Webb	Billy Weston

OUR Values and Behaviour Expectations

School Vision and Values

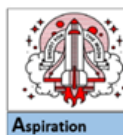


‘Every child reaching their full potential’

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



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



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



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



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



37,000 achievement points, well done to all students who are working hard within all lessons and across school.

✎
🗑
📊
←

Parental Info

01/08/2025 - 03/10/2025

Name ↓	Positive
Year 7	9556
Year 8	9067
Year 9	8202
Year 10	6060
Year 11	4815

Assembly Focus: Mental Health Awareness Day

We are pleased to share that our recent school assembly focused on **Mental Health Awareness**, an important topic that affects every member of our school community. The aim of the assembly was to help our students understand the importance of mental well-being, recognise the signs of emotional distress, and learn ways to support themselves and others.

World Mental Health Day

10 October 2025



Mental Health Support

All Year 9 students took part in a Mental Health Coping Workshop on Thursday, delivered by our in-school Mental Health Support Team. This was an excellent opportunity for students to feel reassured and to learn new strategies that may support their wellbeing throughout the year.

Halloween Spooktacular Film & Fancy Dress

Wednesday 22 October 2025—5.30pm 7.30pm

Year 7 and 8 students are invited to the first ever SMHS Halloween Spooktacular Film and Fancy Dress event on 22 October.

Halloween Spooktacular Film & Fancy Dress

We are rewarding all year 7 and 8 students who have been getting it right the majority of the time.

This is a half term reward that will be taking place on Wednesday 22nd October from 5:30 – 7:30pm.

£2 entry – this will include a small bag of goodies. You will be able to purchase drinks and cakes on the night.

Prizes for the best fancy dress costume –
BE SPOOKTACULAR!

A movie poster for Disney's Hocus Pocus, featuring the three Sanderson sisters (Winifred, Sarah, and Mary) in their iconic black dresses, standing in front of a full moon. The title "Disney HOCUS POCUS" is written in a stylized font across the moon.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend more money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unexplained communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so setting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a family safety hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nude and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'leaks'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately, talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Keeping our communities
safe and reassured



NOTICE TO LOCAL YOUTHS AND PARENTS



Your local Police Community Support Officers, Scott & Jenny are hosting some pop-up lunch clubs over October half term. You are welcome to come and join us at your local community centres to enjoy some indoor games & crafts.

- 👉 Completely FREE!
- 🎮 Crafts & Games
- 🍽️ Free Hot Lunch provided by Thirlmere Community Group
- 👨👩👧👦 Ages 8-16

**No need to register just come along,
But places will be limited by the venue size.**

HALF TERM LUNCH CLUB FOR CHILDREN 8-16 YEARS

📍 LOCATIONS & DATES :-

Thursday 30th October 2025,
12.30-2.30pm

At Thirlmere Community Centre, Merrivale Rd, Stafford

Friday 31st October 2025,
12.30-2.30pm

At The Roundhouse Community Centre, Sidney Avenue, Stafford

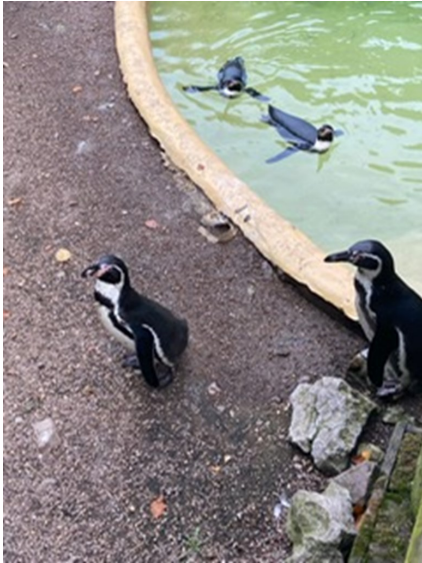
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE



YR10 GCSE Art and YR9 Rewards trip to Dudley Zoo

We had a fabulous day at Dudley Zoo with the students, their behaviour around the zoo was exemplary and I couldn't have asked for better.

The students were asked to take lots of photos for their 'Animals coursework' in YR10. The students will be drawing some of the photos as part of their coursework.



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—2.00 —4.00 pm

Friday—11.00 am—1.00 pm