

Head's Up!

Issue#3

18 September 2025

Stafford Manor
High School

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Dear Parents and Friends of Stafford Manor,

Open Evening—Thursday 25 September from 6pm—9pm.

A quick reminder that we have our Open Evening on Thursday 25 September from 6.00pm onwards. A number of our amazing students have been asked to represent the school and parents should have had letters to request permission for them to stay. If not, please ask your child to collect a letter from reception or their form tutor.

Later start on Friday 26 September—IMPORTANT PLEASE READ

In order to allow teachers and support staff to have an opportunity to prepare the school ready for students to arrive on the morning after a very late finish at school on Open Evening, and also to allow students slightly longer to rest after a long day and evening helping at the school, **we will be asking students to arrive at 10am on Friday 26 September.** Staff will then be able to have the time they need to pack away and prepare their classrooms ready for students to have a positive and slightly more rested start to the last day of next week. **Please ensure your child arrives at school ready for the gates to open at 10am on Friday 26 September. Please do ensure that they attend though and there will be double points for attending on a Friday and a Monday!**

The deadline to apply for high school is 31 October 2025. Please click on the link below and select Stafford Manor High School as your first choice to secure your child's place with us.
[Admission to Year 7—September 2026](#)

Attendance Campaign 'I'm Here!'

We have had the pleasure of taking part in the 'I'm Here!' attendance campaign. This has been a really exciting opportunity for all involved and we were very proud to hold a red carpet event on Thursday 16 September.

The campaign will be launching across Staffordshire from October 2025.

School Photographs

The deadline for ordering your child's school photograph is Thursday 25 September.

Key Dates for this half term

Please see some of our key dates from the remainder of this half term below. I look forward to welcoming parents who attend and please do pop over and say hello if you would like to discuss anything.

- Year 7—11 Flu Immunisations will be taking place all day. Parents to give permissions by clicking on the [link](#). Information has also been sent by email to parents.
- **SEND Parents' Evening - Wednesday 1 October 3.30pm—5.30pm** (SEND Department)
- Whole school cake sale—Wednesday 1 October
- **Year 11 Success Evening - Thursday 16 October 5pm—6pm** (Main Hall)

I hope your child has a really enjoyable week next week at school and I look forward to meeting many of you again soon.

Please see page 2 of this weeks Head's Up for a reminder of why we are doing the things we are doing in the classroom.



Teaching and Learning expectations at Stafford Manor High School

'The Stafford Manor Way'

Over the last 12 months at Stafford Manor High School, the teachers have been following a codified way of teaching, that ensures all students are receiving the highest possible quality of teaching. We call this 'The Stafford Manor Way', and it provides a guide to what all students should experience in the classroom, whether it be in History, PE, Maths or any other subject. It covers the way students are greeted at the door, to how they are questioned in order to make them think, to how we meet their various needs within the classroom.

This year we are taking things a step further, and providing a consistent vocabulary that staff will use with students, that again ensures high quality teaching, but also provides students with clarity on what the expectations for them are. They have all attended assemblies this week where this information has been shared with them. Highlighted below are some of the key vocabulary they will hear in all their lessons:

'The Stafford Manor Say' - This is the language teachers are using in lesson and why

'Retrieval': Over time, unless practiced, we all forget things. At the start of every lesson, there is a retrieval task that allows students to practice retrieving previously learned information. This process helps to store it eventually in their long term memories.

'In todays lesson...': Students will be told what they are going to learn in their lesson clearly, and it will be explained how that fits into the bigger picture, and where they eventually may end up.

'STAR Listening': When the teacher is talking, students will be asked to evidence 'STAR' listening. This means to Sit up, Track the speaker (look towards who is talking, whether teacher or student), Active listening (be ready to ask and answer questions), Respect.

'Cold Call': When questioning, the teacher will pose the question, then ask a chosen student to answer. This ensures all students are thinking, as opposed to just the one when phrased the other way around, or asking for hands up.

'Thinking Time': When asked a question, students will be given thinking time (anywhere from 3 seconds to a few minutes). This will support them in formulating the best quality answer, as opposed to a quick and shallow answer.

'No opt out': Students will not be allowed to 'opt out'. Thinking in lessons is not optional. If a student doesn't know the answer, they will be supported by the teacher, or returned to later once someone else has provided a clear answer. This helps to ensure students are listening, focused and thinking.

'Show me': At various points in the lesson, the teacher needs to know whether each student has understood the concepts, skills or knowledge being taught. This needs to be done while they still have the chance to help the students, as opposed to finding out after the lesson has ended. In order to do this, students will be asked to 'Show me...' they can answer a question, or 'Show me...' they can demonstrate a skill.

'Silent Solo': This one is incredibly important. When our students get to the end of Y11 and take their GCSE's, they will have to sit exams. In those exams they will have to evidence what they know and understanding on their own. They, therefore, need to practice this and show they can do this consistently. Therefore, in each lesson there will be a 'silent solo' task. During this, the students will need to work in silence and on their own (solo). This could be anything from a couple of minutes long to 20-30 minutes long (there may even be times when this has to be done over more than one lesson).

I hope that after the excellent assemblies led by Mr Regnauld (Teaching and Learning Lead) last week, students are now much clearer on why teachers are doing and saying the things they are in lessons and why they are structuring lessons in the way that they do.

Have a great weekend,



Rhys Adams—Headteacher

Headteacher Rewards—Friday 12 September 2025

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Freya Capewell	Katy Parry	Freddie Evans	Jaydon Stocking	Cole Reeves
Kenzie Hafez	Jacob Sharman	Sam Lally	Skye Robinson	Kayne Clark-Hughes
Amber McMeel	Connie Grant	Malik Cunningham	Kelis Davidson	Amira Zaynoun
Evie Clarke	Dexter Lee-Hammond	Jade Foster	Skye Reynolds	Lyla Bottomer
Alexandra Manova	Riley Heywood	Casey Day	Joseph Wilson	Alycia Blount

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

21,903 achievement points, well done to all students who are working hard within all lessons and across school.

Parental Info

01/08/2025 - 19/09/2025

Name ↓	Positive
Year 7	5186
Year 8	5618
Year 9	4988
Year 10	3793
Year 11	2317

Parent Log In

All students have now been issued login details for both the student and parent portals. These platforms are a valuable way to stay informed about progress, achievements, and school updates.

If you require any assistance with accessing the portals, or if you have not yet received your login details, please don't hesitate to contact the school — we'll be happy to support you.

LOG IN GUIDE

1. Open www.classcharts.com/parent/login
2. Enter your email address
3. Choose 'I don't have an account yet'
4. Enter your parent access code and name
5. Choose a password
6. Click Log-in!

Daily Uniform

We would like to remind you of the importance of ensuring that all students meet our school uniform expectations. Wearing the correct uniform helps promote a sense of pride, equality, and belonging within our school community.

Please take a moment to check your child's uniform each day to ensure it meets the school's guidelines and policy, which are detailed below.

If you have any questions or require support with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support in maintaining high standards.

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, facial piercings should be removed or clear studs. 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



How Might You Have a Democracy in Your School?

Student Leadership 2026
Volunteer to be part of the Student Leadership Team!

  

'Your team - Your voice - Your school - Your future!'

Mental Health Support

All Year 7 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.



Higher Horizons—Year 11

This week all Year 11 students attended three 1-hour sessions delivered by the Higher Horizons team from the University of Staffordshire, informing them of a variety of options and skills needed for their future after GCSE's.

Session 1 explored the different study options available at the age of 16 including academic, vocational and apprenticeship routes.

Session 2 introduced students to what University is and the different things that need to be considered including living arrangements, student loans, life as a student and the different courses that can be studied.

Session 3 saw students discussing and demonstrating important study and employment skills needed as a young person entering life after GCSE's.

Students engaged in all sessions, representing themselves and the school beautifully. Students asked some excellent questions and have now hopefully started thinking about these important next steps for their future.



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



Stafford Manor
High School

Do you have some free time?

Would you like to help Stafford Manor High School
set up a PTFA?

If you are interested in supporting us,
please contact Mrs Smith, School Business Manager
or
Mrs Marshall, Office Manager