

Dear Parent/Carer,

Head's up! –Our weekly Headteacher update for families & friends of Stafford Manor

Thank you to the 133 parents and the 283 students who recently completed our parent and student voice surveys to feedback on the things they feel are going well and the things that they would like us to focus on to improve our school.

I am pleased to say that we have had lots of positive feedback and a 3% increase in response rates from parents this year and also an 8% increase in responses from students.

Positive findings from parent voice

The majority of parents feel that their children are happy and feel safe at Stafford Manor. In addition, parents feel that we have high expectations of their children and that their children do well here too. The majority of parents also said that they would recommend Stafford Manor High School to another parent and that they feel we have a good range of subjects available to students. I am also pleased to say that the proportion of parents who feel that when they have raised concerns here, their concerns have been dealt with properly. The majority of parents also said that they feel we ensure students behave well in school.

Other positive comments

- 'Stafford Manor have some fantastic staff who are an absolute credit to the team.'
- 'Feedback and reassurance are amazing.'
- 'A great school!'
- 'My son loves school; the teachers seem to take an interest to get to know the pupils to help them learn which is brilliant. My son isn't just treated as a number but a person.'
- 'I am happy with my child's education and progress. Thank you.'
- 'Very pleased.'

Areas to improve and develop

- More support with reading materials at home.
- I think more communication from the school would be good and a chance to meet the headteacher and to hear from him more.
- More information about what clubs are on offer please and more sport/more clubs.
- More day trips.
- Some parents think that our rules are too strict.
- More information about Year 9 Options.
- More information about the curriculum.
- More information about how to support my child with GCSEs.
- More feedback on what steps and actions we have taken since our last Ofsted report.

We are here to listen and to help!

Please see this new weekly update as an opportunity to receive more communication, more regularly from the school. In addition, please do like our [Stafford Manor High School Facebook Page](#), as this will allow you to receive more updates and communication as we move forward as a school.

We will also be sharing more updates around the themes that parents have identified as areas we can further improve. I am pleased to enclose updates around Year 9 Options, Links to support for GCSEs and also to share information on our community support hub.

Positive Findings from Student Voice

Pleasingly, there were many aspects from the feedback we recently received from students that need to be celebrated and shared with you.

The majority of students enjoy attending Stafford Manor High School and that they feel safe. Students were positive about the support they receive in lessons and they feel that teachers give them work that challenges them. This in turn leads to students enjoying their learning. Students feel that behaviour in lessons is good, all or most of the time and that behaviour is also good outside of lessons. Students also felt that behaviour has improved again since last year, which is pleasing.

The majority of students feel that bullying either does not happen, or that if it does the school resolves it. If your child has experienced bullying in any form, please do encourage them to tell a member of staff. If they do not wish to do so, please ask them to let us know via the red hand on the website. Please be reassured that we take issues of bullying very seriously at Stafford Manor and will tolerate this in any form.



Areas to improve and develop from students' feedback

- More information about a wide range of careers such as architects, barristers, therapists, psychology, business, engineering and how to apply for jobs.
- Greater access to a wider range of activities outside of lesson times.
- Making sure that we are more consistent across the school.

General updates

Year 9 Choices Evening

If your child is in Year 9 then this is a very important time in their education. The Year 9 Choices Evening is designed to help the transition between KS3 (Year 9) to GCSE's (Year 10) and this will be taking place on **Thursday 14 March at 6.00 – 7.00 p.m.** It is very important to attend this event with your child and this will run in the main hall. A range of staff will be on hand to support this event and it will provide you with all of the information you need to help your child choose their pathway into Key Stage 4.

Y11 PPEs

Well done to all the Year 11 students who have taken part in their PPEs (mock exams) over the last few weeks. This is a very important time and helps our students prepare for the examinations which take place during the Summer Term. Please continue to work hard for the rest of your time in school and access the resources available to you on Show My Homework and the students section of our website here: [Support for GCSE revision](#)

SMHS Community Support Hub

We are delighted that parents are taking advantage of the SMHS Community Support Hub. All parents are invited to visit us every Wednesday between 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. and Friday between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. This facility will also be available during Parents Evenings too. If these times are not convenient for you, and you would like to take advantage of the food staples that are available, please contact the main school office to arrange a time to come in.

We are very grateful to MCKS Charitable Foundation UK for providing food from Asda for our families.

The Support Hub provides a valuable space for parents and carers to meet and offer support to each other about a range of issues whilst also enjoying a cup of tea / coffee and biscuits.

Mr Adams (Headteacher) will also be available at these times, if you would like to pop in for a chat. Alternatively, if you would like to book time with him, then please do email into headteacher@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

World Book Day

World Book Day provides a wonderful opportunity to instil in our students, a lifelong passion for books and reading. Through our World Book Day celebrations, we aim to highlight the importance of books in enhancing literacy skills, expanding vocabulary and, nurturing creativity and imagination. It is a day where we collectively acknowledge the invaluable role that books play in our lives and the wider world.

This year, World Book Day was celebrated nationally on Thursday 7 March. As our Year 11 students are busy with their PPEs, we have decided to extend World Book Day to the World Book half term. We have so many fantastic activities planned, we wanted to make sure we had time to fit it all in!

Book Donation

Do you have any books you no longer read? Bring them to tutor and the form with the most books will win a breakfast celebration at the end of term. You will be donating them to either the school library or other local charities. Please bring books that are in good condition.

The Great Book Swapathon!

Do you have a book you no longer read? If so, why not swap it in our great book swapathon! Bring the book you want to swap to school, exchange it for a swap token and you will be invited to the library to choose a new one. Please swap books in good condition. Bring your books in from 4th March to 15th March

Make me A Word Millionaire!

Can your tutor group be word millionaires? Complete Accelerated Reader quizzes EVERY time you finish a book and the words will be added to your tutor count. The tutor group with the highest word count will receive an Easter Eggstravaganza lunch treat. Don't forget to complete your 20 minutes of reading every day.

Non School Uniform – Friday 22 March 2024 (last day of term)

There will be a non-school uniform day where students can choose to wear a costume from their favourite book or come in their own clothes – Will we guess what book you are from? Will YOU guess what books the staff are from? Prizes for best costumes. It will be a £1 donation on the school gate and money raised will be split between the school library and Comic Relief.

Get Caught Reading

From Monday 4th – Friday 15th March if you students are 'caught' reading (outside of lessons) they will be given a 'caught reading' token – hand it in to Mrs Gurmin for a money off voucher for the upcoming book fair.

Thanks to those parents who have offered to support us!

It was pleasing to have a wide range of parents offer to come into school to continue to support us and help feedback to us on how we are doing. Please watch this space for dates before and after the Easter break to start that process and develop further opportunities to work together.

Well done to the following students, for being in the top 5 achievers last week at Stafford Manor High School. These students have received a Headteacher's Award and a prize for all their hard work

Headteacher's Award for this week

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Arly Penlington-Stopka	Skye Robinson	Aaric Sambahangphe	Chloe Cooper	Jessica Manning
Oliver Preece	Maxley Penlington	Brooke Williamson	Katie-Mai Darb	Rubie Jones
Isaac Johnson	Alexander Anthony	Zachary Wilson-Stark	Tristan Webb	Jenna Nixon
Isaac Jones	Leighton Knox	Hadyn Anthony	Lily Constable-Swift	Derricka Naa Adoley Cobbson
Daniel Patrick	Leila Webb	Sukhraj Kooner	Dagmara Piekarz	Reuben Willson

Attendance Matters Rewards!

The school's attendance is currently 2% higher than it was last year, which is a huge achievement. Simply put, your child's achievement will reduce by up to 2 GCSE grades or more unless they attend school well.

Our expectations of your child and attending school is that they should be here all of the time.

Please support us with our drive to continue to have high standards of attendance by ensuring your child attends school every single day for the rest of the academic year. Our usual Attendance Matters Rewards including VIP lounge passes, Amazon Vouchers, Chocolate bars, Tutor group end of term breakfast, jump the queue passes can be won by your child for attending school and trying their hardest over the last two weeks of term.

They have to be in it to win it though so please do send them in!

Mindfulness March

Please find the Action for Happiness Mindfulness March Suggestions for each day of this month to live a more mindful and positive month. Please see separate attachment.

Thanks for taking the time to read this first of many updates!

Thanks to all our friends and families for their continued support. Tune in next week for another 'Head's up', when I will be providing another update and more clarity on the great things that are happening in our wonderful school.

In the meantime, if you have specific enquiries, then please email me on the Headteacher email address headteacher@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

Best wishes to you and your family,

Rhys Adams

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'R Adams', positioned below the printed name.

Headteacher