

To All Parents and Carers

16 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

### Year 11

We would like to send our best wishes to all Year 11 students as they approach the final stages towards completing their GCSE examinations over the next few weeks. We are well aware that their time in KS4 has been particularly challenging but, as a group, they have met these challenges with maturity and enthusiasm.

Details of the GCSE examination schedule and revision sessions have been emailed to parents and carers separately via EduLink. This is also available on our website at [Letters to Parents/Carers - St Anne's Academy \(stannesacademy.org.uk\)](http://www.stannesacademy.org.uk). Our May half term revision sessions for Year 11 are as follows:

- Tuesday 30 May 2023: Maths from 09:30 to 12:30
- Thursday 1 June 2023: English from 09:30 to 12:00

There are also two important dates for Year 11 student diaries to reward them for their hard work throughout their learning journey here at St Anne's, as follows:

- **Year 11 Prom: Friday 30 June 2023**  
Details have already been circulated to Year 11 about this event but please contact Mr Whitehead or Miss Gibbons if you have any queries;
- **GCSE examination Results: Thursday 24 August 2023**  
Year 11 students collect their examination results in person at school on this date. Further details will follow in due course regarding the arrangements.

### New Deputy Headteachers

We welcome two new Deputy Headteachers to St Anne's this term, Dr Lee Schofield and John Rogers. Both are experienced and skilled teacher leaders who will enhance the delivery of high quality teaching and learning to benefit our students here at St Anne's.

### Parents' Focus Group Meeting: Thursday 8 June 2023

I am delighted to be able to invite you to participate in our next Parent Focus Group meeting. We are always looking for ways to involve parents and carers as much as possible in the life of St Anne's and in the decision-making process.

### The main aims of the Parents' Focus Group are:

- Gather parents' views and allow us to take these into consideration when developing policy
- Give parents greater opportunity to become involved with school
- Develop strong relationships
- Feedback on key strategies and how we can get better for all students

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### What we would like from you as a member of the Parent Focus Group:

- A willingness to participate in an open dialogue with us
- To be able to work with us objectively and help improve our offer
- A desire to share your views about the school and how it operates
- A desire to continue to improve the experience of St Anne's for all students and parents

We are holding our next meeting on **Thursday 8 June 2023 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm** here at St Anne's. The meeting will focus on **Literacy and Safeguarding**. If you would like to come along to this meeting, please visit the Forms section of EduLink where you will find a simple booking form to complete. Alternatively, please email us on [admin@stannesacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@stannesacademy.org.uk) or phone on 0161 643 2643 to book your place at the event. The deadline for booking your place is Tuesday 6 June 2023.

### Free School Meals

Rochdale Council have informed us that they will no longer accept paper based applications for Free School Meals from 1 September 2023 and are encouraging parents and carers to use the online application service from now on. This can be found at [Apply for free school meals | Free school meals | Rochdale Borough Council](#).

### School Uniform

We would like to remind parents and carers that all students should attend school in full uniform every day. Full details of our uniform policy can be found at [Uniform Guide - St Anne's Academy \(stannesacademy.org.uk\)](#).

We would also encourage you not to send your child into school with expensive items, such as coats, shoes, bags, etc., to avoid the risk of wear and tear, loss or damage to costly items. The Academy cannot be held liable for the replacement cost of students' personal belongings which are lost or damaged at school, including items which are optionally expensive choices.

### Caffeinated, Fizzy and Energy Drinks

I would like to remind parents and carers that drinks which are caffeinated, fizzy or classed as energy drinks are not allowed in school at any time. These are full of sugar and research shows that energy drinks can cause headaches, stomach aches, anxiety, sleep disruption and other harmful side effects to children. We recommend that students drink water at school and there are several filtered water dispensers situated throughout the building where students can refill their personal water bottles during social time, free of charge.

### Family Holidays during Term Time

There have been a number of requests recently for permission to take students out of school for family holidays. DfE guidance permits headteachers to grant leave of absence only in exceptional circumstances however family holidays are not considered to be exceptional circumstances. Please be aware that requests for holidays taken during term time will not be authorised, i.e. recorded as unauthorised absence, in line with DfE and Rochdale Local Authority guidelines. Therefore, any parents and carers who choose to do this will incur financial penalties imposed by the Local Authority.

### Forthcoming School Holidays

- **May Half Term Break 2023**  
As a reminder, the last day of this half term is Friday 26 May 2023. School will then reopen to all students at 08:25 on Monday 5 June 2023.
- **End of the Summer Term 2023**  
Please note that the final staff training [INSET] date for this academic year's calendar will be Friday 21 July 2023. The last day of term for students in Years 7 to 10 inclusive will therefore be Thursday 20 July 2023 when school will close at the end of period 3 [12:05].

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Finally, I would like to wish you and your family a peaceful and enjoyable break at the end of May. We look forward to seeing all our students safely back in school on Monday 5 June, ready to learn and enjoy the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Heyes  
Headteacher

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