



Smestow Academy  
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

It has now been three weeks since I became Headteacher of Smestow Academy and I would just like to take this opportunity to share how delighted I am by the level of engagement from parents/carers. Everything we are implementing at Smestow Academy will ensure a better school experience for your children.

I have been extremely pleased with the attitude of our pupils. Change is not always easy but the vast majority have already adapted to the changes to the running of the school day and our increased uniform expectations. Behaviour is already noticeably better both in lessons and around school.

A special mention is required for our Year 11 pupils who have worked extremely hard through their very busy mock examination period, showing great resilience and commitment to their studies. It is important that this is sustained throughout the rest of the academic year and we welcome your support in echoing our messages about the importance of revision.

Below is a reminder of some school expectations and some important dates for the remainder of the academic year.

### Uniform and equipment

Please note that:

- No jewellery is permitted other than small silver or gold stud in ear lobes (plastic transparent nose studs are permitted for this academic year only);
- Skirts need to be an appropriate length (no less than 5 inches above the knee);
- Shoes should be black leather and polishable (as set out by the previous trust in September 2022. Smart/formal shoes will be expected from September 2023);
- In order to be fully prepared for learning we also ask that pupils bring to school each day 2 black pens (one spare), red pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator and their pupil planner which was given to them on return to school this January.

### Key Dates for your diary

Following the process of staff marking the year 11 mock examinations, there will be an important training and moderation afternoon planned on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**. **On this day, pupils will leave school site at 12:40pm.**



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Smestow School



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**As you will have no doubt heard in the news, the NEU teachers' union have called for a national day of action for its members on this day (1<sup>st</sup> February 2023). However, this will cause minimal disruption to pupils at Smestow and the school will remain open for pupils from 8:30 am till 12:40 pm on this day as planned for the moderation day. Please contact school if these arrangements will cause you any difficulties. The 751 bus has also been arranged to collect any pupils who use it at 12:40 on this day.**

We have also reviewed the parents' evenings for the remainder of the academic year and have made changes to the dates previously communicated to you at the beginning of the academic year.

These new dates for parents' evening are as follows

- Year 12 and 13 – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (via Teams)
- Year 11 – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (in person)
- Year 9 – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 (in person)
- Year 10 – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (virtually)
- Year 8 – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (virtually)
- Year 7 – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (virtually)

Details of the virtual parents' evening system called SchoolCloud that be used for the virtual events will be released nearer the time.

I once again thank you for working with us to support the rapid improvements we have already made to Smestow. As our new school motto states: **'Success achieved together'**

Yours sincerely



Mr I Chamberlain  
Headteacher

