

Our Ref: ICH/SDF

26 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to give you some updates at the end of this half term.



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Uniform and PE kit

I would firstly like to thank you for your magnificent support with uniform across this half term. Pupils have looked incredibly smart. We do however remind you that no jewellery is permitted other than small studs worn in the ear lobe. Any other jewellery will be confiscated. False nails, nail varnish, fake eye lashes are not permitted. Can we ask that any pupils wearing hijabs and headscarves that these should be black and plain tucked under blazers with school tie visible.

We have given a period of grace in terms of expecting pupils to be in the new PE kit launched for September 2023 due to our local suppliers not having sufficient stock. We have now been informed that Lads and Lasses, 50A Warstones Road, Wolverhampton, WV4 4LP and Crested Wulfrun Shopping Centre, Units 26/27, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HG have full stock of our new PE kit. We therefore, expect all pupils to be in the correct kit from 6 November on return from the half term break. Please see the school website <https://smestowacademy.co.uk/uniform/>

Personal Development

Our personal development programme in school has had a strong start this academic year. The programme includes Relationship Sexual Health Education, Social Moral Spiritual Curriculum, Statutory Health and Citizenship topics. More information about our RSHE Policy can be found on our website - <https://smestowacademy.co.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2022/12/Relationships-Sex-Health-Education-Policy-2021.pdf> This content is statutory and forms a key part of our provision at school.

As part of our personal development curriculum, our pupils are encouraged to be active citizens within our community. This could include fundraising for charities, for example - our Macmillan Bake Sale or taking part in events in school to raise awareness of key issues, such as our mindfulness challenges as part of our exploration of World Mental Health day. Throughout the year, we will be holding a variety of opportunities for our pupils to demonstrate their active citizenship. Please continue to look for our letters signposting to different events and check out our website and social media platforms for updates.

Advance notice of school closures for training

On Friday 24 November 2023, the school will close early, with pupils being dismissed at 12:40pm. These closures are for essential staff training. Extra-curricular and Year 11 study seminars will not run on this day. School buses will be rescheduled to align with these altered leaving times. If your child is entitled to free school meals, a packed lunch will be available to collect from the school canteen when pupils are dismissed. If you wish for your child to have a packed lunch provided on this day, please request one through postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk no later than 2pm on Thursday 23 November 2023.



Smestow Academy
Windmill Crescent
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West Midlands



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Please can I also draw your attention to the remaining training days this year, when school will be closed to pupils:

Friday 1 December 2023
Friday 22 December 2023
Monday 8 January 2024
Friday 28 June 2024
Friday 22 July 2024

Very advance notice: school will also close for a half day on Friday 15th March. We will remind you of this nearer the time.

Year 11 study seminars

Year 11 study seminars have been temporarily paused during the Year 11 mock period. These will resume as normal from Monday 13th November 2023.

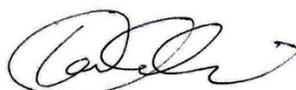
Other reminders

If you need to contact school regarding your child, please call and select appropriate House office to get in touch with your child's Head of House. All parental contact comes through the House office for consistency. If you would prefer a meeting, please do call and book in advance and not arrive in reception and expect to be seen. Heads of House or senior leaders may have lessons or other meetings already booked.

If you have any changes to contact details or you move address, please ensure you inform school for most up to date contact details.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break after what was a long but extremely positive first half term of the new academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



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