

5 June 2025



Smestow Academy
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Internship Programme and Assistance Dog in School

As part of our commitment to supporting the next generation of teachers, we are pleased to inform you that we will be hosting an intern in school over the coming weeks as part of a teaching internship programme for 3 weeks from the 18th June.

The aim of this programme is to provide undergraduate and master's level students with the opportunity to experience teaching before applying to train as a teacher as a career. It allows them valuable insight into school life and the teaching profession, and we are proud to support this development.

This year, one of our interns will be accompanied by an assistance dog. The dog is trained and plays a vital role in supporting the intern in their daily life. We have conducted a full risk assessment to ensure that the presence of the assistance dog in school is managed safely and appropriately. The intern is due to complete a pre-visit on Thursday 12th June.

We understand that some pupils may have allergies or a fear of dogs. If this applies to your child, please contact your child's Head of House by Monday 9th June so we can ensure that the intern and the dog do not enter any classrooms where your child is present. We will also be contacting the parents and carers of any pupils already listed as having allergies directly.

It is important to note that the dog is working and must not be petted, fussed over, or otherwise interacted with while on school grounds. Pupils will be reminded of this in their assemblies to ensure everyone understands the importance of giving the dog the space it needs to do its job effectively.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I Chamberlain', written in a cursive style.

Mr I Chamberlain
Headteacher



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