

11 September 2025



**Smestow Academy**  
www.smestowacademy.co.uk

Dear parent/carers

I hope your children have settled well into the new school year; the warm and positive atmosphere around our academy certainly suggests they have. It has been wonderful to see such a strong start to the term, and I have been delighted with the effort, behaviour, and attitude pupils have shown on their return.

Reflecting on last year, I am extremely proud of the progress we continue to make as a school community. Attendance rose by a further 1.6% compared with the previous year, Year 11 pupils achieved strong results leading to a significant increase in those joining our Sixth Form, and—while national figures showed sharp rises in suspensions—ours fell by nearly 50%. Smestow Academy is growing stronger each term as we prepare for our first Ofsted inspection, which we expect this term, in line with the three-year cycle for newly re-opened schools. (As you know, our school reopened of Matrix Academy Trust in January 2023.)

I am writing today to share some key information for the year ahead.

### **ClassCharts Homework**

From Monday 15th September Smestow Academy will be using ClassCharts to set, monitor and track pupils' homework. This is another feature of ClassCharts we are now taking advantage of to share more effectively with you information between school and home. With the support of our Parent Advisory Forum, we feel this is a positive step to ensuring effective communication regarding homework set for your child. Pupils have had an assembly on Friday 12th September in school to explain how everything will work and how they can view their homework.

As a parent or carer, you will be able to view all homework set in the ClassCharts app or on the website. Pupils will be able to view this through the ClassCharts Students app or on the website. Details of how they can download the app have been shared with pupils in assembly. Pupils are also able to still record their homework in their Pupil Handbook.

If you have any questions regarding ClassCharts and homework, please contact Mr Heywood – Deputy Headteacher through [postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@smestowacademy.co.uk)

### **Medical & First Aid Procedures**

Please note that our trust policy on Supporting Children with Medical Conditions & First Aid can be found here: [Supporting Children with Medical Condition 2025.pdf](#)

As per the policy, we can only administer over the counter pain relief medication if prescribed by a Doctor and written consent has been obtained by parents/carers. We are not permitted to keep any non-prescribed medication on site.



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If your child requires prescribed medication, parents and carers are required to complete the "parental agreement for setting to administer medicine" form from reception, to direct staff in administering the medication in line with instruction from medical professionals.

### **Uniform**

Thank you to all of our parents who supported with ensuring pupils returned to school in the correct uniform to start this academic year. A reminder for some that our uniform consists of:

- Black blazer
- White school shirt
- School tie in house colours (minimum of 6 stripes to be visible)
- Black 'V' neck long sleeve jumper (optional)
- Black tailored trousers or black formal skirt (appropriate length) - no lycra skirts permitted
- Black socks or tights (not patterned)
- Plain black leather shoes
- Small stud earrings to be worn in the lower lobe
- No facial piercings, nail varnish, false lashes or false nails
- Natural hair colour only

Students in Sixth form should wear full business dress and are reminded that tight fitting clothing is not appropriate. Nose studs are also not allowed in school and students will be asked to remove them.

More detail for clarity on the expected standard of uniform (including appropriate skirts and appropriate footwear) can be found at <https://smestowacademy.co.uk/uniform/>

### **Parking and road safety**

We are receiving several complaints from local residents about unhelpful parking around our school including causing obstructions and blocking driveways at the end of the school day. This standard of driving and parking is unappreciated by the residents of Windmill Crescent and Chelmarsh Avenue, and most importantly, may put your child's safety at risk. There are also a number of parents and carers who are parking very close to the pupil exit making it more difficult to allow the children to exit safely.

If you don't have any other options and do need to use a vehicle to pick up your child, we politely request that you allow extra time to park safely and legally further away from school if you are at all able and to make arrangements for a meeting point with your child. We would greatly appreciate your support in working together to keep our children safe and to support our neighbours, the residents.

### **"What's on this half term?"**

In response to parent/carers feedback last term, we have collated key dates from our school calendar with upcoming events for parent/carers reference. This is subject to change, but we hope that it will give our parents and carers an indication of everything that is taking place in school. You can find the link to this here: [whats-on-this-half-term-Aut-1.pdf](#)

### **Dates for Your Diary across the academic year**

- **Thursday 25 September 2025 – Year 7 Settling in Evening**
- **Thursday 4 December 2025 – Year 11 Parents Evening**
- **Thursday 15 January 2026 – Sixth Form Parents Evening**
- **Thursday 5 February 2026 – Year 10 Parents Evening**
- **Thursday 19 March 2026 – Year 9 Parents and Options Evening**
- **Thursday 7 May 2026 – Year 8 Parents Evening**
- **Thursday 4 June 2026 – Year 7 Parents Evening**



### Training Days

- **Friday 24 October 2025 – School Closed, Staff Training Day**
- **Friday 28 November 2025 – School Closed, Staff Training Day**
- **Friday 19 December 2025 – School Closed, Staff Training Day**
- **Monday 5 January 2026 - School Closed, Staff Training Day**
- **Friday 20 July 2026 - School Closed, Staff Training Day**

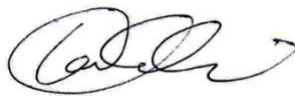
### Early Closures

- **Wednesday 1 October 2025 – 12:30pm finish for Open Evening**
- **Wednesday 5 November 2025 - 12:30pm finish for Staff Moderation Training**
- **Thursday 12 March 2026 - 12:30pm finish for Staff Moderation Training**

As we begin this new school year, we are eager to build on our successes and continue strengthening our school for the benefit of our whole community. Our carefully planned and well-resourced curriculum offers exciting and enriching opportunities for every child, and we are proud to be fully staffed with subject specialists—something that is rare in the current national recruitment climate. This is a testament to the high standards our pupils uphold and to the culture of respect and value that makes our staff proud to be here.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. I look forward to seeing you soon and to working together to ensure this year is another happy, memorable, and successful one for all.

Yours faithfully



**Mr I Chamberlain**  
**Headteacher**



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