

2 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

### School Development Plan

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

As you have been made aware, I am extremely proud and privileged to be made the permanent Headteacher at Stocksbridge High School and I look forward to working in partnership with you moving forward.

Over the last two terms since I have been at the school, we have stabilised the leadership team and reviewed our practice in a number of areas. This has led to the creation of a new school development plan that will ensure the school continues to make changes to our processes and practices to benefit the students and the wider school community.

Our key areas of improvement over the next 12 months have been identified as the following:

- Ensuring the safeguarding systems and process fulfil our statutory responsibility, so that students are safe.
- Improve the quality of the SEND provision in the school following the appointment of the new SENDCo.
- The quality and consistency of teaching enables all students to make progress.
- The development of a literacy strategy to ensure that all students can access the work that they complete in lessons.
- Improve the progress and attainment of the students, so that they are able to access the next stage of their education.
- Ensure that there are high expectations of behaviour and this is supported by a clear framework.
- The need to raise the profile of attendance at school and this being everyone's responsibility.
- Increasing the opportunities for extra-curricular and enrichment activities as part of the wider curriculum.
- Improving the quality of leadership in the school to ensure the improvement areas are delivered.

As part of this improvement, I am also seeking to review the communication methods, so that you are kept informed of the progress that we are making, and the opportunities being provided to our students.

There are also a number of other items I wish to draw your attention to:

## Mobile Phones

As a school we have received additional information from the Department of Education about the use of mobile phones in school. This reiterates that mobile devices should not be used in schools and that our policy of 'never seen, never used and never heard' is the approach that we must take.

Therefore, we ask for your support in ensuring that your child understands the policy and if their mobile phone is used in school, it will be confiscated and a sanction given.

## Car Congestion

Due to the bad weather over recent weeks, there has been an increase in the number of parents/carers dropping their children off at school. This has created significant congestion at the start of the school day and there have been several near misses, and I am concerned that we will have an accident during this time. Could I therefore ask that you are considerate when dropping

your children off, ensuring that this is in an appropriate place and does not endanger the students or cause issues for local residents.

## School Day

We are seeking to make a change to the school day, with a move towards a single lunch, which will provide more opportunities for enrichment activities to take place during the school day. This will not change the start and finish times of the school day. I will be sending out additional information about this in due course and will be asking for your feedback in relation to the proposed changes.

## Parent/Carer Forum

To gather your views about the changes we are making at the school, we will be holding a parent/carer forum on Wednesday 15 April 2026 at 5.30pm. This will provide me with the opportunity to give you a more detailed overview of the improvement area and address any issues or concerns that you may have. All are welcome to the meeting.

## Suspensions

You may have heard recently that the Government are seeking to review the use of suspensions in schools. I want to clarify that at this stage, the information and guidance that we are using has not changed and therefore, if your child behaves in a manner that is not in line with our behaviour policy, your child may get suspended and the same process that is currently in place will be followed.

I hope that this letter provides you with a clear overview of the next steps in our journey and it is essential that we work together to make Stocksbridge High one of the leading schools in Sheffield.

If you wish to meet with me to discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Williams  
Headteacher