

25 August 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Support with Returning to Stocksbridge High School in September

I hope you have had an enjoyable and restful summer break. As we approach the new academic year, we are committed to ensuring that every student feels confident and prepared to return to school in September. We understand that this time can be challenging for some students, and we want to offer our support to those who may be feeling anxious or worried.

If you have any concerns or feedback, including any worries your child might have about returning, as well as any issues you have that could impact on their return to school, for example a significant event during the holidays, medical issues, school uniform. Please contact us on Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd September in preparation for their return to school on Thursday 3rd September.

Additionally, we want to remind families about the statutory changes to school attendance that the Government introduced in August 2024. To help clarify these changes, we have included our 'Stocksbridge Attendance Roadmap' within this letter. This Attendance Roadmap summarises our attendance expectations, along with the new guidance, in a clear and accessible format. We are also now using A Star Attendance so you can may receive email communication via noreply@astarattendance.co.uk

We hope this will help you better understand the expectations and requirements for your child's attendance this year.



Stage	What This Means	Support School Can Offer	How Parents Can Help
Stage 1	Attendance has fallen below 95% or there are 1–3 days of unauthorised absence in a half term.	• Phone calls, texts and emails regarding absence • Attendance monitoring • Support from form tutor/class teacher • Attendance targets and encouragement	• Let school know the reason for absence promptly • Encourage good attendance routines • Discuss any concerns with school early • Ensure punctuality and regular attendance
Stage 2	Attendance is becoming a concern, falling to 93–94.9% or there are 3–5 days of unauthorised absence in a half term.	• Attendance letters • Mentor or key adult support • Pastoral support • Home visits where appropriate • Early Help discussions • Attendance Support Plans and reasonable adjustments	• Attend meetings • Be open about barriers to attendance • Work with school on agreed support • Encourage and celebrate improvements
Stage 3	Attendance has fallen to 90–92.9% or there are 5–8 days of unauthorised absence in a half term.	• Formal attendance meeting • Individual action plan • Increased pastoral support • Regular review meetings • Referrals to external services • Formal Attendance Support Plan or Parenting Contract	• Attend and engage with support meetings • Follow agreed actions • Access services offered • Maintain regular communication with school
Stage 4	School support has been tried, but attendance remains a significant concern. The Local Authority may become involved review support and next steps.	• Local Authority consultation • Review of all support already provided • Additional recommendations from attendance specialists • Notice to Improve may be issued where appropriate	• Continue engaging with support • Work with school and any external professionals • Follow improvement plans • Seek help if circumstances change

We appreciate your cooperation and input and look forward to working together to ensure a smooth and positive start to the new school year.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Williams
Headteacher