**Template Letter for Schools to send parents**

We are delighted to have joined the #KeepStokeSmiling campaign by committing to going fizz free in our school.

Staffordshire sits in the bottom quarter of the UK’s league table for tooth decay which costs the NHS more than £36 million per year. Sugary and fizzy drinks are a contributing factor to this sad statistic and an everyday battle for the orthodontic teams at University Hospitals of North Midlands in Stafford and Stoke.

#KeepStokeSmiling is a local campaign and aims to highlight the importance of teeth and the importance of looking after them and is now teaming up with local authorities to launch its Fizz-Free Schools campaign.

Fizzy drinks are the largest single source of sugar for children aged 11 to 18. They provide an average of 29 per cent of daily sugar intake with most containing six or more teaspoons of sugar per can.

Going Fizz Free is a great way to reduce sugar intake by cutting out fizzy drinks and by committing to going fizz free it will make it easier for our pupils to cut down on fizzy drinks.

We know it’s a big ask but we have signed the pledge and joined the campaign to go sugar free which means that we have agreed that no fizzy or carbonated drinks will be sold or consumed in school grounds.

No fizzy drinks will be sold in the canteen or vending machines and none will be allowed in packed lunches

It’s a big change, we know, but it’s really important if we want to save both the dental health and the general health of our teenagers.

We think the campaign will highlight to young people the serious risk fizzy and sugary drinks pose on their oral health and maybe, save some teeth so we hope you will help support it.