



The Globe Players - Year 11 Theatre Performance

On Wednesday 16th November, all Year 11 students were given the fantastic opportunity to see two of their GCSE Literature texts brought to life. The Globe Players delivered a one hour performance of Macbeth, exploring key scenes, interspersed with contextual analysis and narration. Students were amazed at how the actors could move so easily from performance to narration; they particularly enjoyed the famous Porter scene which was humorous and engaging.

The actors then switched to a one hour performance of A Christmas Carol. The actors really explored each character from the novella to the use of props and staging. The amazing performances and the singing of Christmas carols at the end, kept the students engaged.

This was an invaluable opportunity for students to witness both texts performed prior to their mock examinations.

We look forward to welcoming the same company back in February to perform An Inspector Calls to both Year 10 and Year 11 students.

Other stories you might like:

- Spotlight - Focus on Maths
- Movember Concert
- Elevate Workshops
- Germany Trip
- Year 13 Dance Trip
- Symphony Orchestra Trip



Dear Families - You said, we did!

Dear Families

I hope you enjoy this second edition of our 'Quality of Education' newsletter. If you didn't get the chance to read the first edition, please check it out on our website.

In the academic year of 21/22, we asked for your feedback through a number of surveys. You told us that we needed to share more information about what your child is learning. You also asked for more opportunities to find out how your child is doing. In response to your feedback,

we have planned the following for 22/23:

- A regular newsletter from the Quality of Education team
- More opportunities for families to meet with staff to discuss your child
- Frequent updates on the Stantonbury curriculum.

You will find some of this information in this newsletter. In particular, I'd like to draw your attention to our 'self-study expectations'. I hope you find it informative and useful. As ever, I welcome your feedback!

Best wishes

Sharon Lynch
Vice Principal

Sharon Lynch

Vice Principal

Brilliant Club

Some of our Year 10 students have been challenging themselves with some university-style tuition via The Brilliant Club. We have been examining women's historical writing and historiography. Students have been introduced to some key academic debate and thoughts in the field and are being encouraged to approach new subjects with a critical mind. We have looked at historical fiction, feminism, approaches to history and roots of the Gothic novel. Students will be submitting an essay on the subject of historiography incorporating all of these elements which will be assessed using a standard university grading system.



Spotlight - Focus on Maths

In each edition of the Quality of Education newsletter, we will shine a light on one curriculum area. We want you to have a more detailed insight into your child's learning experience.

In this edition, the focus is on Maths.

What is the purpose of studying Maths?

In Stantonbury, a main aim of the mathematics curriculum is to develop students' understanding of the role that mathematics plays in the world and to develop the mathematical competencies required to function well in society

How is the curriculum designed?

The curriculum is designed to develop students' personal development and skills by focusing on topics in real life experience like compound interest on credit card, simple interest on loans, ratio focusing on partnership and scale drawing with ability to read maps, solving equations including simultaneous equations to help solve problems and develop software apps, Money problems and Best Buy which focuses on making savings from shopping around and many more. These topics and many more ensure that teachers relate the classroom experience to real life scenarios and help students to develop an understanding of the real world. Capture and re-capture are a typical example of helping students to understand the consequences of climate and environmental changes on the planet.

How will my child be stretched by an ambitious curriculum?

The curriculum is designed to aspire and equip students with knowledge and skills to flourish in future careers as it is related to many different career fields. Teachers explain the importance of each topic to real life and future career. This inspires the students to research more and focus on class as they see the benefit of the learning in their future life.

- Students are given more problem-solving questions relating to real life scenarios.
- Students are challenged to research and develop their mathematical competency through flipped learning where topics are given to students in advance to prepare.
- Exposure to marking schemes to challenge students' ways of working and reasoning mathematically.
- Proving mathematical theories like Pie, open box challenge, and other hands-on activities.

How will my child be supported if they are struggling?

In the mathematics lessons, teachers use a range of strategies to support students

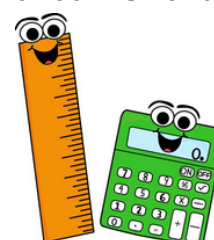
- Model examples on the board
- Break the learning down into 'chunks', giving students a 'step by step' approach
- Give word/ phrase banks to improve vocabulary
- Provide opportunities for students to collaborate before they are expected to work independently
- Give live verbal feedback in the lesson so that students know how to improve their work
- Scaffolding and providing differentiated tasks

What else does the Maths department offer?

The mathematics department have online platforms which supports student's self-study and can be used at any given time. There is a drop-in session at break and lunch time where students who are struggling are given extra support and those who need challenging work are given extra to do.

There is a GCSE further maths course offered to students who have the ambition and the desire to excel and develop their mathematics reasoning and ability.

There is an after-school intervention every Tuesday for our KS4 and KS5 students.



Curriculum

If you would like to know more about your child's curriculum, please check out the curriculum page on our website www.stantonbury-tove.org.uk/information/curriculum/faculties

The updating of the curriculum area is ongoing. We will communicate any changes. It is important that our families are informed of **'The 5 Entitlements of the Stantonbury Curriculum'**:

STEM

Arts

Physical
wellbeing

Global
citizenship

Skills
for Life

All students, regardless of background, prior attainment, SEN or EAL need will experience all of the '5 entitlements' throughout their Key Stage 3 and 4 curriculum.

The '5 Entitlements' reflect our vision and values as a school. For further information, please see details on the website.

Year 11 Exams

Our year 11 students have now completed their first set of practice exams. This was a really demanding fortnight which tested our students' resilience. Sitting up to two exams a day, every day for a week was a draining experience for many students, and it was noticeable to the exam team as the exam window progressed, just how visibly tired our students became. In the summer, students will be sitting exams over a 5 week window so it's important to test out, and refine good exam preparation habits now.

In January, all year 11 students will be invited to the "Results Event" where they will receive their full results and consider what their options would be in September and use this to plan to succeed. Over the next 6 months we will be working ever more closely with our year 11 students and their families to ensure that everyone keeps their "eyes on the prize" in the run up to the summer exams. More updates will follow in the Spring term.

Tutor Evening

We would like to remind you of the next Meet the Tutor Evening, which will take place on **Thursday 12th January** from **4:00pm** until **7:00pm**. This will be a virtual event, conducted over a video link via the School Cloud platform. This will be a valuable time for you as a parent/carer to meet the form tutor and discuss your son/daughter's progress from September to December. We will send booking information shortly to all families.



Self Study Expectations

Subject	KS3	KS4	KS5
English	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Any additional information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Individual staff may also set project work alongside the text they are studying</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Students should use Seneca at least once a week to review learning and complete practice questions.</p> <p>Individual teacher tasks to compliment lessons.</p> <p>Students should regularly complete past questions or research around a topic.</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>NEA Independent study.</p> <p>Students should regularly complete past questions or research around a topic.</p>
Science	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>KS3 are set work on Seneca learning as independent work</p>	<p>KS4 are set work on Seneca learning as independent work</p>	<p>KS5 Biology students have access to snap revise videos, exam questions and mark schemes to practise as well as Seneca. It is expected that they would be doing 5 hours minimum study extra a week https://gcseprep.com/aqa-a-level-questions-by-topics/</p>
Maths	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Any additional information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Individual staff may also set work alongside the topics they are studying.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to watch maths videos on MathsWatch and complete practice questions based on what they are learning.</p>	<p>Use Maths Watch at least once a week to review learning and complete practice questions.</p> <p>Additional Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to complete past papers and specimen papers on Maths Watch and Onmaths.</p>	<p>Exercise in their textbooks, Maths Watch, Dr Frost depending on the topic they are learning.</p> <p>Additional Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Students should ensure that they are completing all the exercise in their textbook ensuring that the mixed and review exercises are completed</p>
Physical Education	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Homework may be set in lesson as part of our discussions, but at least one piece per term to highlight understanding and gain knowledge for PE exam.</p>	<p>Work set weekly on Google Classroom.</p>	<p>Research projects and coursework are ongoing.</p>

Self Study Expectations

Subject	KS3	KS4	KS5
Geography	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Work at KS3 might include revision for in class tests. Students will be directed to websites including BBC Bitesize.</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Students should use Seneca at least once a week to review learning and complete any practice questions that have been set. If there is no specific information for that week, students should work on their weakest areas by searching by topic.</p> <p>Students should regularly complete practice exam questions and bring these to their teacher so that feedback can be provided.</p> <p>Examples of top tips for revision can be found here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1SGXViQGPfuO-RFayrg6x0TnK1VVUwy5W/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107112186325265674169&rtpof=true&sd=true</p>	<p>I should use Seneca at least once a week to review learning and complete practice questions. If there is no specific information for that week, students should work on their weakest areas by searching by topic. Students should regularly complete practice exam questions and bring these to their teacher so that feedback can be provided</p>
History	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Any additional information shared through Google Classroom</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Seneca Learning for KS4, however this is not for all topics.</p> <p>YouTube links shared with students.</p> <p>Students should regularly complete practice exam questions and bring these to their teacher so that feedback can be provided.</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Seneca Learning for KS5, however this is not for all topics.</p> <p>YouTube links shared with students.</p> <p>All lesson materials are shared with students to support revision of previously taught content and ensure resources/folders are organised.</p> <p>Students should regularly complete practice exam questions and bring these to their teacher so that feedback can be provided</p>
MFL	<p>Information is shared on Google Classrooms. This will include key vocabulary to learn and memorise. Seneca is used to help support students in KS3.</p>	<p>Information is shared on Google Classrooms. Students will be given vocabulary tests weekly by their class teacher. Seneca is used at GCSE level.</p>	N/A

Self Study Expectations

Subject	KS3	KS4	KS5
Performing Arts	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>One practical homework and one written homework per term for Dance, Drama and Music.</p> <p>Students are advised to be actively watching, practising, analysing and listening to Dance, Drama, Music and Media.</p>	<p>One homework set a week for Dance, Drama, Music and Media lessons. This can be written or practical.</p> <p>Use of Seneca where appropriate - Currently nothing offered for Dance or Music BTEC.</p> <p>Regularly complete practice questions based on past papers.</p> <p>Students are advised to be actively watching, practising, analysing and listening to Dance, Drama, Music and Media.</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Regularly complete practice questions based on past papers.</p>
Religious Education	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Homework is set on Google Classroom at least once a fortnight.</p> <p>Wider reading material also distributed on Google Classroom to encourage reading around the topic.</p>	<p>Homework will be set on Google Classroom once a week.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to use Seneca for the AQA course.</p> <p>Exam papers and marks schemes posted on Google Classroom</p>	<p>Homework will be set on Google Classroom once a week.</p> <p>Seneca used for AQA course.</p> <p>Routledge site link to be posted on Google Classroom.</p> <p>Links to various relevant academic journals and articles to be posted on Google Classroom.</p> <p>Exam papers and marks schemes will be posted on Google Classroom</p>
Computer Science	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students.</p> <p>Students are to receive homework once a week. Students access their homework through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Homework is handed in via Google Classroom by the due date.</p> <p>Students will be asked to complete worksheets and practical tasks to consolidate knowledge in lessons.</p>	N/A	N/A

Self Study Expectations

Subject	KS3	KS4	KS5
ADT	<p>Bedrock at KS3 for all students</p> <p>Any additional information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Intention that homework will be set bi weekly via Google classroom.</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Use Seneca at least once a week to review learning and complete practice questions to develop exam rhetoric</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom.</p> <p>Use Seneca at least once a week to review learning and complete practice questions to develop exam rhetoric.</p> <p>NEA elements of the course s are to be submitted via Google Classroom.</p>
Social Sciences	N/A	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom at least once a review of learning and complete practice exam questions.</p> <p>Students will receive essay based tasks.</p> <p>Students should be accessing and using academic journals to widen and deepen student learning.</p> <p>Additional lesson notes should be made to strengthen learning</p>	<p>Information shared through Google Classroom at least once a week to review learning and complete practice exam questions including extended essays in timed conditions.</p> <p>Students in BTEC/Applied courses given the opportunity of practice for controlled assessment components.</p> <p>Students will receive essay based tasks.</p> <p>Students should be accessing and using academic journals to widen and deepen student learning.</p> <p>Additional lesson notes should be made to strengthen learning.</p>

Accessing Learning Platforms

All Students should be able to log in to Google Classroom, Seneca and Bedrock with their single-sign on information, i.e. the details they use to log in to their school accounts. An example for a Year 7 student might be:

username: 22.GILLE@stantonbury-tove.org.uk

password: students will have likely have changed these by now, however if they are unsure, their teachers can reset their passwords. This is likely to be reset to the following, and students can then change this:

student!234

Elevate Workshop - Year 11

Year 11 students have been taking part in a range of workshop activities delivered by Elevate - a study skills organisation. This has involved students developing revision techniques and organising their time to include independent study. The Elevate team joined us again on 7th December to help Year 11s reflect on their preparation for the recent mock exams and how they could improve this in the future. Evaluation forms were completed by 205 students. From this it was great to see that 97% of students would recommend this programme to others, and 96% of the students thought it was time well spent.



97%

OF STUDENTS WOULD
RECOMMEND THE
PROGRAMME

We continue to support students in developing their study skills every Friday during tutor time. So far, students have learnt how to build a revision timetable and work effectively in study groups. Elevate also offer webinars for parents. Please look out for future invitations.

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Trip

On Wednesday 7 December, 24 Year 10, 11 & 13 Music students travelled to Birmingham for a concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. After a rather lacklustre first half of Brahms and Nielsen, the students were enthralled by a muscular and powerful performance of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony - with the CBSO demonstrating why they are one of the most revered orchestras in the world.

Throughout the trip, the students' conduct and engagement was exemplary. They are a credit to their families and an asset to our school community.





Peaky Blinders by Rambert Dance Company

Troubadour Wembley Park, London

On Thursday 3rd November A-Level and Year 11 Dance and Performing Arts students travelled to the Troubadour Theatre, Wembley Park, London to watch Peaky Blinders performed by Rambert Dance Company. The visit gave students the opportunity to see a professional dance work and helped to inspire them choreographically. A-Level dance students said:

'The dance was amazing, I loved how dynamic it was and how they came into the crowd breaking down the forth wall.' Charlotte Bayer – Year 13.

'I loved how the music was live on stage, the music worked extremely well with the choreography.' – Chelsea Impey – Year 13.

I thought the dancer interpreted and recreated the storyline in a interesting manner. The technique of the dancer was extremely impressive and their characterization was flawless.' -Daisy Yabsley - Year 13.

'As an audience member I felt really involved and engaged with the performance, the dancers broke down the fourth wall and came into the audience.' – Rachel Corkett – Year 13.

'The dancers were very dynamic making the piece so engaging. There was also moments of humour in the piece that I really enjoyed showing light hearted moments.' – Abbie Faulkner – Year 13.



Movember Charity Concert

On the afternoon of Wednesday 30 November, 10xAC staged their fundraising charity concert for Movember. This wonderful event was hosted by Year 10 students Azedine, Davina, Erin and Alex and featured fabulous solo performances from Maisie, Woody and Ezra. The school orchestra performed two pieces and the Rock Stars group performed two songs. There were also performances from the Year 10 dance and drama groups. All the performances were magnificent and the audience of the entire year group were delighted. The afternoon was completed by a special performance from Milton Keynes's favourite young band – The Stencil Pencils. TSP performed four songs including their new single 'MK City'.

Thank you to everyone involved and all who attended.



German Market Trip!

We set off on time and arrived as planned in Germany. After settling into our rooms we had dinner and students enjoyed the games room, the England match or chilling in their rooms.

In the morning after breakfast, we hopped back on the coach to visit the Lindt chocolate factory warehouse where the wall to wall chocolate kept us all in awe.

Following our shopping experience at Lindt, we headed by foot towards the Christmas Market to soak up the smells, sights and sounds. A truly magical experience.

We spent the day at the market browsing through the market stalls buying Christmas trinkets and gifts and stopped for lunch to try some of the German delicacies such as Bratwurst und Kartoffeln. We headed towards a sweet shop and then visited the cathedral.



In the afternoon we spent a few more hours at the market and then returned to the hotel to rest and have dinner.

In the evening, we returned to the market to experience its magic at night. It did not disappoint.

Sunday morning after breakfast, we boarded the coach for the journey home.

We look forward to returning next year!

Thank you to the students for making it a memorable experience and to the team of teachers Ms Stephen, Ms Rule, Ms Alexander, Mr Mane and Mr Breeze for supporting the trip.

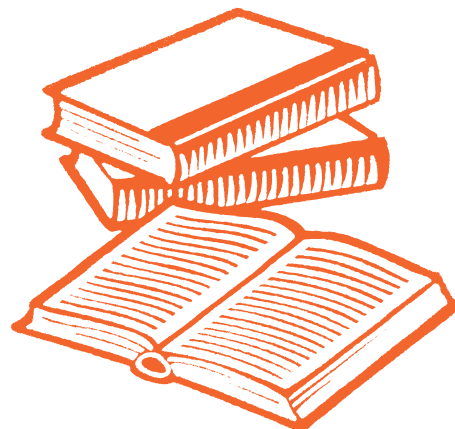


Study clubs

We are pleased to offer Study Clubs for our students in Years 7 to 11. Students are welcome to attend to use the ICT facilities in the Portway ICT suite after school until 4pm. Staff will be on hand to help with any general queries.

- **Years 7, 8 and 9** are invited on **Thursdays** after school from **3.15pm until 4pm**
- **Years 10 and 11** are invited on **Tuesdays** after school from **3.15pm until 4pm**

The Sixth Form students continue to have access to a wide range of resources including their own study area equipped with both fixed computers and laptops.



Google Classroom

All students have been invited to Google Classrooms for their subjects. They should regularly log in and check these classrooms for notifications and useful suggestions. Please can you encourage your child to check this regularly. Resources shared here will include lesson and revision material, revision ideas, and what topics are coming next along the student learning journey. These resources can be used by your child in a number of ways e.g. highlighting and underlining specific information as a revision tool. Students should log into this with their normal school email details.

Bedrock - KS3

Bedrock is an online vocabulary and literacy support and intervention tool designed to support students in developing their understanding of vocabulary from across all areas of the curriculum. Once the initial Alpha Test has been completed, students are assigned a Block of learning based on their ability. Each block covers a range of topics with varied and engaging activities and takes about a year to complete. Students should be spending 1-2 hours on Bedrock per week.

The completion of Bedrock tasks should be your child's top priority for self study. These tasks must be completed each week, and will be monitored by your child's form tutor

Students can log into Bedrock using their school log-in details, if they have any trouble, they can request their log-in from their tutor.

Seneca

Students also have access to Seneca – a website that provides revision material, quizzes and mock exam style questions to support students in their GCSE courses. Students may be set homework directly from their teachers signposting them to topics they would like them to focus on, or students are able to use this site themselves to revisit topics or even read ahead to what's coming next to give them a head start. For example, in geography a student may have identified climate change as a gap in their knowledge and they would then be able to find revision material on this specific topic. Subjects covered by Seneca include maths, science, English literature and language, geography, RE, history, MFL and many more. Students should log into this with their normal school email details.



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