

STANTONBURY SCHOOL

Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN

T. 01908 324 400 | F. 01908 324 401

enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk | www.stantonbury-gst.org



8th September 2021

Dear Stantonbury families

I am writing to you to inform you that on 1st of September it was confirmed that Stantonbury International School transferred to the Tove Learning Trust and is now known as Stantonbury School. Everybody at the Trust is delighted that the transfer has taken place and that the journey to make Stantonbury a great school can begin. We hold very high expectations for the future success of the school and are very much looking forward to working in close partnership with you so we can make this a reality.

Now that Stantonbury School has joined Tove Learning Trust we have devised plans to address some key priorities in the short, medium and longer term. It is important that parents are aware of these priorities; in this letter I have outlined some of the headlines so far.

1. Safeguarding

Your child's safety and welfare are our top priorities; we know how important it is that you feel confident that your children are safe when at school. We have undertaken additional training before the term started to ensure that staff are all completely familiar with the procedures and processes that have been put in place following the Ofsted inspection where safeguarding was found to be inadequate. We have conducted one external review of safety on site and there will be further reviews in the coming weeks. Funding has been secured to replace/upgrade the perimeter fencing and to update CCTV so that we can improve the physical security of the site. To ensure that safeguarding is everybody's business we will be working with students and parents to further develop the culture of safeguarding at Stantonbury School.

2. Leadership

We have taken steps to ensure that the leadership team is focused on rapid improvement and that they have the support required from the Trust.

- Mr Ben Wilson has been appointed as Associate Principal and is responsible for the day to day running of the school and leading the development of teaching and learning.
- The Vice Principals and Assistant Principals have more defined roles and specific areas of responsibility and this will help us address the right priorities more quickly. Details of their roles will be communicated soon.
- Subject Improvement Directors from Tove Learning Trust have already been in school to start supporting subject leaders to develop their curriculum and to support the further improvement of teaching.
- As Executive Principal I am working with Mr Wilson and the Leadership Team to ensure that the strategic development of the school is well focused and is making a strong impact.



LEARNING TRUST A member of the TOVE Learning Trust

Executive Principal Jim Parker



3. Teaching and learning

Our initial priority is to ensure that all students return to school and can experience consistent routines and approaches. The pandemic has caused significant interruption to learning and we need to support your children by making routines strong so that they can get on quickly with their learning. To help this we have introduced a new mantra: Be Here, Be Ready, Be Learning. These principles will guide our work this term so that we get everyone in the right routine. This week and moving forward, every lesson will start with what we call a do know exercise. This tried and tested method will help your child to know more and remember more as well as helping make the start of the lesson routine sharp and focused immediately on learning.

4. Attendance, rewards, behaviour and expectations

Promoting excellent attendance is an important priority as there is a very strong link between good attendance and effective learning. We recognise that Covid has caused attendance patterns to be different over the last 18 months, but we must now do everything we can to keep attendance levels high. It is essential that students know what is expected of them at all times. To help do this we have refreshed our approach to rewards so that we can focus on the positive achievement of your children. We have also strengthened our behaviour policy so it is completely clear to students and parents what our expectations are and what consequences there will be if behaviour falls short. A copy of the behaviour policy will be published on our new website soon.

5. Governance

To secure the rapid improvements that need to be made we have established an Academy Improvement Board (AIB). A Chair has been appointed and we are in the process of finalising the membership of the Board. The AIB will meet frequently at the School and will hold leaders to account for delivering rapid and sustainable improvement. There will be regular updates from the AIB so that parents are aware of progress.

6. Communication

We have a new website that will be developed further as the term progresses. We hope that it is easy to use and helps parents and students to access the most important information. The weekly parent communications from Mr Wilson will continue so that parents are kept up-to-date with current events and issues. I shall write regularly to report on progress being made. We are keen to develop face to face communication too and shall be organising opportunities for parents to meet with leaders so that areas of mutual interest can be discussed and pertinent issues addressed.

Finally, visitors to Stantonbury School will find reception in a new location. Our new reception has better facilities for visitors with private meeting spaces available, closer links to student services and better step free access. To find reception you should head towards the Leisure Centre entrance and then bear to the right following the signs to reception.

STANTONBURY SCHOOL

Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN

T. 01908 324 400 | F. 01908 324 401

enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk | www.stantonbury-gst.org



I hope it has been useful to touch upon some of our initial priorities for the term ahead. I am confident that we will make rapid progress in addressing many of the things that I know have been a frustration for students, parents and staff alike. I am very much looking forward to working with you to make Stantonbury School the place we all want it to be.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jh." with a period at the end.

Jim Parker
Executive Principal