



# NEWSLETTER UPDATE

## Executive Principal



Dear Stantonbury parents

I am writing to update you on our progress so far as we seek to rapidly improve Stantonbury School. As I indicated in my last letter, we have identified a number of key priorities that need to be addressed. Here is a brief progress report.

### Safeguarding

Leaders have reviewed and rewritten the safeguarding and child protection policy and the newly established Academy Improvement Board (AIB) will be scrutinising this policy at their first meeting later this week. This policy will then be shared with parents. An external check of the school's single central record has been undertaken to ensure that records of all the relevant pre-employment checks have been completed accurately. I am pleased to say that this check revealed that we are compliant with requirements. Initial planning work has started on the new perimeter fencing and upgrade to CCTV systems. I can't emphasize enough how important it is that we have a strong culture of safeguarding so that parents and school work in effective partnership to protect the best interests of all of the children at Stantonbury School. If you have a concern, no matter how small, it is best to share it with us at the first opportunity; early intervention is always best. There are contacts for staff listed on our web site.

### Teaching and learning

As part of our new slogan **Be here, Be Ready, Be Learning** we have introduced a new learning routine at the start of every lesson. You may hear your children talking about Do Now activities. At the start of each lesson students are required to complete a Do Now activity that tests how much they can remember of their previous learning. They are faced with a short quiz that requires them to retrieve knowledge from the previous lesson or the previous week. These very regular short tests, completed in silence, are a great way of ensuring knowledge is retained. Later in the year they will have to remember knowledge from the previous term – a much more challenging proposition! The Do Now activity also serves as a very good routine to get lessons started well and sets the tone and expectation for the rest of the learning that takes place. Feedback from students has been very positive and I have seen some excellent Do Now practice in action during my visits to lessons.

## Attendance

Promoting good attendance is the first Be in our slogan **Be here, Be Ready, Be Learning** because students cannot learn effectively unless they are in school. Unfortunately, there has been quite a lot of non-Covid related illness among the students and staff – probably because of more social mixing following a long period over the summer where social contacts were possibly more limited. We hope that our collective immunity builds up again quickly so we can minimise disruption. It seems this is an issue in most schools locally and nationally at the moment. However, we do need to work closely with you as parents to support good attendance so that your child thrives in school.

## Behaviour

I have visited many lessons over last few weeks and in general most students I have seen embody the **Be ready** part of our slogan. They are well equipped, ready to learn and engaged in their learning. I also spend a lot of time at break and lunchtime talking to students about their experiences and observing their behaviour. Many of them have told me that they have been pleased to be rewarded for their effort and work and that they feel motivated by our rewards system. Students are also telling me that most of their lessons are uninterrupted by poor behaviour. However, this is not the case across the school and there is work to do with improving the consistency of behaviour so that every lesson can progress without disruption. Students are becoming more familiar with our new C points behaviour system and most are responding to the higher expectations that have been set. As with all systems there are a few glitches, but we are addressing these through tutor time and assembly messages and for staff, through our ongoing training programmes. We really appreciate the support that we receive from parents when we have to deal with something that has gone wrong. Again, the strength of the partnership between the home and school is essential in helping support children in their learning.

## Communications

Thank you for the positive feedback that we have had regarding the approach to communications with parents. The web site [www.stantonbury-tove.org.uk](http://www.stantonbury-tove.org.uk) is developing well and I hope that you are picking up on the more regular social media posts on Facebook and Twitter. Mr Wilson's weekly parent communications are published on the web site too in case you missed the original email. We shall be conducting some parent surveys to get a wider view of whether communications are too little, too much or just about right. Over the next few weeks, you should receive a call from your child's form tutor for an initial check in. During this conversation we will be asking how you feel your child has settled into the new school year as well as making sure we have the right communication channels open with you.

Have you got a child in year 6 or do you know someone who has?

If you missed our successful open evening last week, we are now taking bookings for morning tours. These will operate throughout October and offer you a chance to see the school in action and to see what a good choice Stantonbury would be for your year 6 child. Tours can be booked by emailing [enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk).

I will write again before the half term break with further updates but in the meantime if you have queries, comments or grumbles do not hesitate to let me know by emailing [enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk) – please mark it for my attention.

Thank you for your continued support of Stantonbury School.



**Jim Parker**

**Executive Principal**

