



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Associate Principal



1st October 2021

Dear Stantonbury Families

I hope you and your family are well and you have had an enjoyable week despite the change in weather

Be HERE

Safeguarding

To improve the safety of our children as they leave the site, we have closed the main car park between 3.05 and 3.30pm so there are no cars entering and exiting the car park as our children leave from the main gate at the end of the day. Thank you for your fantastic response to our request to not use the car park between these times, so we can ensure the smooth and safe exit of our children from the school site. It has made a huge difference. If you feel due to a medical, SEND or safeguarding reason you need to park in the car park, we can issue you with a pass. Please contact enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk with further details.

Gates

From this Monday 4th October all students will be able to enter and exit via the Ashurst Gate, or the Main Gate. We will no longer be opening specific year group gates. The reduction in entrance and exit gates, gives us additional staffing to deploy at our vulnerable external areas. Every morning at both gates, a team of staff will welcome the students and check their uniform- so it is the best it can be. Both gates will be open at 8.45am -9am. If your child arrives after 9am there should enter school via the main school reception which is accessed through the Leisure Centre entrance.

Be READY

October will see lots of **visitors** to our school. I want to show it off and invite families and even politicians through our gates so they can see for themselves some of the amazing work our students and staff are producing every lesson, every day. Throughout October we will be conducting additional tours for prospective Year 6 families so they can see our school in action. I am also excited to be welcoming Ben Everitt, MP, I want our visitors to see some of our early changes that are making a difference already. Tours can be booked by emailing enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk

Uniform

I would like to thank you once again as you support us to ensure your child, our students wear their uniform as best as they can. There has been a noticeable improvement with the collective efforts of our staff and yourselves, so thank you and please keep it up. As a reminder we have banned hooded tops in school. With the weather changing please ensure your child has a suitable coat to keep them warm and dry. Hooded tops that are worn to school will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day. Any child not wearing their uniform as best as they can, will be issued with a uniform slip they can present to other staff when challenged and the year team will contact home to offer support.

Be LEARNING

The Senior Leadership Team with Heads of Department have been conducting learning walks to quality assure and support our teachers. It has been wonderful visiting lessons across the school and seeing our children engaged and using school routines effectively. **Do Nows** are commonplace and evident in all lessons - have you asked your child about them? The use of praise and positivity is building relationships with students and the behaviour policy is being used more consistently. There is still work to be done but you can already see a difference.

Cover lessons

Across the country schools are experiencing a high level of staff illness, we are no exception. Your son or daughter may have experienced a cover lesson recently. I want to reassure you we are working hard to ensure that routines remain the same in lessons, there are effective start and initiatives such as our 'Do Now's' and the new behaviour and reward systems are in place. We are advertising for additional cover teachers so we can create a team of staff that have built relationships with our students and benefitted from our teaching and learning staff training. As much as possible we try to use a specialist teacher who will cover colleagues in their department but at times, we will need to reach out to agency staff. All cover teachers receive an comprehensive induction process and are quality assured by Heads of department. Thank you for your understanding of the situation.

Rewards

We continually aim to recognise and encourage students' efforts and achievements. As such we have updated our rewards systems so that students are rewarded with achievement points for a variety of reasons including excellent pieces of work, being a good team member, being **Responsible, Respectful**, and demonstrating **Resilience**, even for being a happiness hero. These points are logged and tracked on Go4Schools with students and parents being able to see how many they have accumulated either through the App or through their online log in. Positive Behaviour will be rewarded as follows.

With each achievement point being worth one penny, students can use their rewards to purchase items from the rewards shop. In addition, there will be larger, bigger

value rewards that students can aim for at the end of each term and the school year. The Reward shop will open every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15 to 3:30pm, starting Tuesday 12th October. In recognition for their positive attitude students will be invited to attend afternoon tea with members of staff, postcards will be sent home, they may receive a positive phone call, a certificate of Achievement to name a few other ways. Celebration assemblies will be held three times a year and students accumulating zero negative points will be invited to attend a special field trip in the summer term.

Homework

Go4Schools and Google Classroom

As we are in the process of migrating to new systems, please be aware of the following information regarding homework:

Our Google package is being updated to ensure that we can enjoy all of the benefits and features that the platform offers. As a result, we are not using our current Google Classrooms as these will soon become redundant and work will be lost. When we have the full Google package in place, we will use Google Classrooms to set homework and you will receive regular updates on your child's submissions. In the meantime, teachers will be using Go4Schools to set homework. Parents will be able to use the parent app to view homework set. As you will appreciate, this system is new for both parents and staff so in these early days, we expect there to be some issues and inconsistencies. As we move forward, we will be working to iron these out.

Students will also be able to access their homework through the Go4Schools website and app. Students should use their school email address (access link is on the schools web site home page) and set up a password to log in:

<https://www.go4schools.com/students/Login.aspx?rurl=https%3a%2f%2fwww.go4schools.com%2fstudents%2fdefault.aspx%3fnla%3do>

The Big Draw

The ADT department is inviting all students to take part in the Big Draw Festival this autumn term. The theme this year is 'Make the Change.' Living in balance with the world around us, reconnecting with each other and the creation of a better world for future generations. Inspiration this year comes from the Welcome Trust exhibition on Joy and Tranquillity. Focusing on Amalia Pica's piece 'Procession for eighteen.' The activity will run every Thursday in October from 3.15-4.30 in Danstead Atrium. Please can we all drum up support and tell everyone we know. Please see the attached for further details.



Library Newsletter

Please see attached the October Library newsletter. This will be a great read during the wet weekend ahead.

Positive experiences

School is not all about the classroom and we want to inspire and engage your child through a wide range of positive experiences. We have started to offer a range of clubs this term for all year groups, from breakfast club in the morning to both sporting and non-sporting activities at lunch time and after school, we are increasing our offer weekly. Has your child engaged yet? Please see attached the list of clubs available, please encourage your child to get involved.

Sporting fixtures are also back! It is wonderful to be competing against other schools again. Our Year 8 boys played against The Webber Independent School and won comprehensively 8-2.

Well done gentleman and to everyone involved that enable the fixtures to happen.

With trips on the horizon and staff already organising things behind the scenes in preparation, we may finally be getting back to some normality.

Future Stars

We have some exceptionally talented students at Stantonbury and through our family communications I would like to make you aware of some, as undoubtedly one day we will be seeing them on a bigger stage and we will be able to say, I know them, they went to Stantonbury School.

I would like to introduce you to Ayesha

Sport: Athletics - Javelin

Achievement: **Ranked No 1 in GB Under 15**

Since the age of 6 Ayesha has been around Athletics but it was by chance that she found her talent for throwing, when aged 11 she literally picked up the Javelin in an open competition and with her first throw broke the club record, she has been competing ever since. Ayesha competes for MK Marshall Athletics club as well as the Buckinghamshire County team. This year she has finished 1st in every competition she has taken part in, bar one where she finished 2nd.

Ayesha is the current National and English school's champion.

Her personal best throw is a massive 46.51m, which is longer than the distance thrown by the current U17 GB No 1 performer. Ayesha is 15! Next year Ayesha will be old enough to compete in the England development team and her ambition is to compete at the Olympics. Watch this space, I think this is going to happen, this young lady is a huge talent!



I hope you all have a wonderful, restful weekend. Until next week, take care

Ben Wilson
Associate Principal

