



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Associate Principal



15th October 2021

Dear Stantonbury families

I hope you are all well. You may be thinking like me where has this half term gone, it has literally flown by, and now we only have one week left until the holidays, I wanted to take this opportunity to gather your views

BE HERE

Family Questionnaire

I aim to lead the best school possible - where all students, staff and families are happy, safe, empowered, feel valued and work collaboratively to help everyone achieve their best! To help in this, I invite you to let me know your views about the school by completing this OFSTED-style parent view questionnaire.

<https://forms.gle/tphcd2Nwctvh5MWu6>

The questionnaire is a formal mechanism to receive personalised feedback from YOU about OUR school. Only by listening and acting upon your feedback can we truly aspire to be the best school possible. By taking time to fill in the questionnaire, you will directly help influence the direction of our school.

We are working hard to improve our communication with our families and to maintain a close working relationship with everyone. It's a careful balancing act but sometimes however, unintentional misunderstandings do arise. When they do, it's important to resolve them straight away so that we can all devote our energies to our priorities and providing the best opportunities for our children. Completing this questionnaire, will also give me the opportunity to put any such misunderstandings straight.

Please take the time to complete the survey by **Thursday 21st October**

Student Voice: New Beginnings

We have asked our students in tutor time to think about and discuss how they feel about the four below statements. Tutors were asked to compile responses on Google Forms.

1. I feel the start to the new year has gone well.
2. I have felt happy in school this year so far.
3. I have felt safe in school so far this year.
4. I know where to go if I have a problem.

It been wonderful to see some of the positive comments from students that came out of these discussions.

For example, our year 7s especially have enjoyed making new friends, the range of subjects they get to take, feeling more grown up than at primary school and how they have felt reassured during a big transition by their teachers and friends. Our Yr10s have articulated that they have valued being able to choose their option subjects, that they have learnt more so far this year and that they enjoy the facilities they have access to.

Other comments have included that all staff have been welcoming, our students are enjoying the variety of spaces to go to at lunchtime and that they are enjoying a range of subjects. A key message to come out from different year groups was that students know who the safeguarding team are and who to go to for support. We hope that our students continue to enjoy their start to the new year and approach their Form Tutor or other trusted adults in the school with any questions or worries they may have.

Student Wellbeing

Please see attached this month's Wellbeing newsletter.

BE READY

Testing and Vaccinations

Home Testing - All students will receive another box of home testing kits next week. You will not need to test over the half term break, but please ensure you have tested on the Sunday evening or Monday morning prior to returning to school. Students should then continue to test twice every week on Monday and Thursday before school. Please could you continue to telephone the school to let us know if your son/daughter had tested positive following a PCR test. This will help us monitor numbers in specific year groups.

Please see attached a joint letter to parents of secondary school and college students in England on Covid- 19 testing and vaccines from the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care.

Go4Schools update

This week on Go4Schools we are updating Progress information for our Key Stage 4 students. This means that you will be able to log in and view targets for most of their GCSE and BTEC level 2 courses from Monday 18th October. We will let you know each time we release new information to the site, so that you can gradually familiarise yourself with the navigation of the Go4Schools platform.

We now have over 50% of parents who have successfully logged into our new Parental Engagement site, so if you haven't yet tried the new platform, the login information is attached. More information will be released using this platform over the coming weeks, so please do log in, if you've not already done so. A reminder that the website address is: www.go4schools.com

Rewards

We are pleased to announce the grand opening of the Rewards Shop from which students can purchase items using their achievement points. As a starting point it will be stocked with stationery and food items. As time goes by it will be stocked up additional larger items such as headphones, gift cards from retailers such as Adidas, Asos, Tesco, Uber Eats, and special item such as Chrome Books. Please encourage your child to visit our shop to trade in their points and to **Be Ready, Be Here, Be Learning** for which their efforts are rewarded with achievement points. You will soon be able to track the amount of points your child has received on the Go4Schools app.

The shop will be open every lunch time and your child Tutor will be able to give them more details from Monday.

BE LEARNING

Schools Debating competition

Two pupils, Lewis and Nabil attended the first school's debating competition hosted by Ben Everitt MP last night. The young men worked hard researching about the case against a second Scottish referendum and Mrs Malone, Mr Murphy and Mr Buckley were all very impressed with how diligently they worked even amending speeches based off the feedback the panel of judges were making. Both pupils showed excellent confidence and resilience during their 6-minute speeches and parried questions from the Webber Independent team well. Nabil and Lewis were both commended by the judges for their in-depth research and use of statistics. While the team did not advance to the next round, they represented the school commendably and showed their skills as future parliamentarians. Congratulations to them both.

Careers

Please see Stantonbury School Careers Service, Karen Malone, Careers and Associate Development Managers review of last week's career workshop.

Milton Keynes University Hospital, Developing Future Leaders, Medical Workshop Event (open to Year 9 through to Year 13 students)

As I sit observing the workshop rotations, I am awed by the fantastic level of student engagement. Each of the twenty-one female students is absorbed with the equipment, or guest information and knowledge. A positive hum abides.

The world's most advanced paediatric, patient simulator, costing £40,000, is sat on one of the desks, students are looking at a screen, learning about the diagnostics being returned from the simulator. The simulator's face has a moving face, eyes, and an electronic voice, it is very realistic. Another group are learning reflexes and eye care, testing each other's knee reflexes, or using equipment to look into each other's eyes. The third group are participating in a quiz about specialisms within the NHS. Further along the hall a group are listening to a local GP, learning to use stethoscopes and blood oxygen monitors. The final group are learning about the electronic equipment used to look at an upper respiratory tract and learning how to perform CPR on a resuscitation model.

Our guests include a general practitioner, paediatric consultant, specialising in childhood allergies, a palliative care doctor and two specialist equipment technicians. We are truly grateful for their time and expertise. They commented during break, that of the four schools to host their event, our students have been the most engaged and they have been very impressed with the questions students are asking.

This is the first in school careers event since the start of the Covid pandemic and it is amazing!

Enrichment Clubs

We are pleased to offer a wide range of enrichment clubs at Stantonbury School which are sure to offer something of interest to all our students, whether they are musical, sporty, artistic, bookish, love a board game or would like somewhere to express themselves and find like-minded people. We have clubs and activities running every lunchtime and after school, as well as some before school, and we hope that all our students will find something to attend that will enrich their school experience.

Please find attached our Enrichment Clubs timetable. Students should see the faculty teams and staff members identified below the table for further details of the clubs they are interested in.

If there is something not on the list that students would like to take part in, they are encouraged to email Miss Theed, our Assistant Principal for Personal Development to see if there may be an opportunity to run an additional club if there is enough interest: amy.theed@stantonbury.org.uk

For now, take care and have a wonderful weekend



Ben Wilson
Associate Principal

