



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Associate Principal



12th November 2021

Hello Stantonbury families

I hope you are well and have enjoyed your week.

Update from the Stantonbury School Academy Improvement Board (AIB) – 4th November 2021

We had a full agenda for our second AIB last Thursday and were pleased to welcome a number of members of staff to our meeting. Vice Principal Katie Shires presented her report on safeguarding and answered several questions about the report including how a safeguarding culture can be embedded at Stantonbury School. We then had a detailed presentation from Assistant Principal Rebecca Gowers about working with Heads of Department to drive up the quality of teaching. Vice Principal Sharon Lynch answered our questions including how rapid improvement will be achieved through continued monitoring and support. Assistant Principal Gareth Massey joined us to update the AIB on the actions being taken to improve attendance and punctuality and answered our questions about new processes to address poor attendance. Associate Principal Ben Wilson presented the Principal's report and answered our questions in relation to behaviour, staffing, premises, health and safety and finance. Finally, we reviewed and approved a new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) policy and an updated Behaviour Policy. We will meet again next month with a focus on monitoring the impact of the new behaviour policy, leadership, pupil premium and Covid catch-up premium.

Best wishes, Sally LaBrooy, Chair of Stantonbury School AIB

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COVID Update

We are continuing to keep our community as safe as possible and encourage you to email/telephone in if your child tests positive.

We have reintroduced masks in school, so all staff and students have been asked to wear masks in all areas unless outside, in a lesson or sat down eating in our diner. Please support this by ensuring your child comes to school with a mask. If exempt, we are supplying lanyards.

Parents Evenings

We have confirmed that the annual parent's evenings for each year group have been scheduled as follows:

Year 11	Thursday 13 January 2022
Year 13	Thursday 10 February 2022
Year 11	Thursday 10 March 2022
Year 12	Thursday 17 March 2022
Year 9	Thursday 31 March 2022
Year 7	Thursday 9 June 2022
Year 8	Tuesday 14 June 2022
Year 10	Tuesday 5 July 2022

These events will allow families the opportunity to discuss progress with their child's specific subject teachers. All appointments will be conducted via the SchoolCloud platform, and families will receive specific information regarding how to set up appointments a minimum of two weeks in advance of the event. We will write to year 11 parents in December to confirm arrangements for the year 11 parents evening in January 2022. There is a targeted year 11 evening later in the school year, to support students with their preparation for final exams.

Medication in school

Please can I remind parents that should your child require medication in school, you must complete a consent form. The first aider will not be able to give your child medication without a fully completed and signed consent form. All medication must be prescribed and in its original box with the pharmacy dispensing label on it. Please also note that we are unable to give over the counter medication. Parents may wish to come in to school and give their child medication in reception during break or lunch time.

Parents are also responsible for ensuring that their child's emergency medication such as adrenaline pens are up to date and replaced before the expiry date. Please email our first aider candice.bristow@stantonbury.org.uk who will be happy to check this for you. Many thanks for your support.

BE READY

Anti-bullying week

Next week is national anti-bullying week. The focus is 'One kind word'. We will be sharing this through our social media pages, assemblies, tutor time, lessons and students will have the opportunity to join a small discussion group in their year which will feed into a new anti-bullying policy.

We celebrate that we are all individuals and unique on Tuesday 16th November by inviting all students and staff to wear odd socks.

Beauty and the Beast

We are delighted to announce that Stantonbury Schools annual musical production is back. Each year we have approximately 150 students that take to the stage and perform to an audience of 750, across 3 shows. Around 200 hours are spent rehearsing to produce such a professional show including a live orchestra, handmade costumes, professional sets, all housed in our very own Stantonbury Theatre. Each year the show is a sell out and students, staff, parents, and families are overwhelmed with the dedication, professionalism, and

showmanship our performers show to ensure this event is such a success. This year you can expect to be enchanted by the beloved 'tale as old as time', Beauty and the Beast taking place week commencing 14th February 2022.

This year will be holding various raffles at Stantonbury School for students, parents, and staff to raise money to fund this production. We would like to offer you the opportunity to support the students and the show and ask if you would consider offering a raffle prize. Your help would be greatly appreciated and will make such a huge difference to all students involved. The monies raised through the raffle draws will go towards, costumes, professional set hire, Musical rights, and Theatre rental. It by the kindness of your donations that we can offer this opportunity and experience to our students.

Thank you for your interest and please contact Holly Lawson (holly.lawson@stantonbury.org.uk) if you would like to make a donation.

Interform Competitions

Week beginning 22nd November, Monday through to Thursday (period 1-3) the PE team will be hosting our school's first INTERFORM competition. Each Tutor Group will enter a separate boy and girl team from their Form to partake in the 5 a-side tournaments on the Astro. Students will spend P1-P3 on the Astro competing against the other Forms in their year group. Between games there will be fun challenges for those students to get involved in whilst they are not playing. I would like to thank your child in advance for their support in helping to making this first INTERFORM competition happen.

It is the intention to hold interform competitions throughout the year with the focus being on mass participation and fun whilst giving students wider opportunities outside of the 'normal' classroom. If you or your child would like to propose a competition, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The Stencil Pencils

Please see the attached video (staring one of our Year 9 students and his brother and sister)

Hello everybody, we have kindly been invited to join Santa's Parade and open Santa's Grotto at centre:mk Friday 12th November from 5pm. We will be performing our charity Christmas song 'It's Christmas'...Indi says "If you miss us, you'll be missing out! we'll be opening all the presents!"

BE LEARNING

For high quality learning to take place, it is important that our students understand the conditions in which we expect them to learn. To maintain and promote positive attitudes to learning and to build on to the successful implementation of the Do Now retrieval tasks that every student completes at the start of every lesson staff will set clear learning expectations for your child for each activity they use in their lessons. We are calling this our 'Climates for Learning'

Teacher instruction

Students are focused on an explanation/ demonstration and modelling/ feedback given by their teacher.

Independent learning

Students are working on their own to rehearse skills/ investigate new ideas. They are supported individually by their teacher as needed and are developing their resilience.

Collaborative learning

Students are working with one another to learn through discussion/ peer review. Their teacher facilitates their learning and is also helping students develop their collaboration skills.

Whole class discussion

Students are engaged in a class-wide discussion to listen to different views and build on one another's ideas. The teacher facilitates this, ensuring only one student talks at a time and that contributions are respectful, developing the discussion by use of effective questioning and interjections.

Network Rail: Staff and Family Communication

On Monday 8 November 2021, Stantonbury School was pleased to host six members from Network Rail, who delivered a whole school-day, in-school event, entitled Network Rail: Tomorrow's Engineers. Almost 60, Year 7, 8 and 9 students applied for a place at the event. The day saw students listening to presentations from a graduate civil engineer, electrical engineers, graduate mechanical engineers, a project manager – student focused, and an international year in industry student (civil engineering). Students learnt about the job roles and study and training pathways into these guest's job roles.

Students discovered what engineering is, and that “Engineers make things that work, and they make things work better.” (Professor Bill Lucas). Engineering is behind everything we use. Engineers are designers, creators, inventors, and innovators; they help shape the future and make a difference to the world we live in.

Students interacted with our guests throughout the day, with a hands-on bridge building, design and build, activity, and the use of specialist Lego kits to design and build working miniature level crossings. One team built a bridge out of paper, small wooden dowels and masking tape that took a 4.5kg load, which impressed the Network Rail team. One Year 7 student chose to work alone and built a working level crossing with minimal support from our guests, it was so good that other groups of students wanted to incorporate some elements of the design and build into their crossings.

Students gave a wide range of reasons for wanting to participate, here are a few:

“I want to attend this program because I want to experience how engineering and project management feels like, to see if I would like to be either in the future.”

“I want to attend today so that I can become an engineer when I'm older and work for NASA. If I can work hard enough, I can become what I want to be in life. I want to see society in a better world.”

“I attended this workshop, because I wanted to try something new... I also like doing other things that require a creative process to do well, so I wanted to see what I could take away from this, as I could transfer some skills over...”

“I wanted to attend today because I'm still not 100% sure what I'm going to pick for my GCSEs, and I thought coming to this event would widen my options.”

Fantastic maturity from some of our youngest students. The Network Rail team were looking for three inspirational and motivated students to put forward for a final event on 26th November 2021. Instead of three, they found eight!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend

Take care

Ben Wilson

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Associate Principal

