



# NEWSLETTER UPDATE

## Executive Principal



7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Stantonbury families

As the end of the autumn term approaches it is a good opportunity to provide you with a brief update on progress and to outline a few early priorities for the new year. It is also a good moment to thank you as parents for your support of the school during the first term of being part of the Tove Learning Trust. It has been rewarding to hear positive feedback from parents about the steps that have been taken as we seek to rapidly improve Stantonbury School. We might reflect on the adage of learning to walk before you start to run; the steps taken so far may be small but if we get the foundations right, we'll be able to move ahead more quickly in the future.

### **Safeguarding**

As you know, safeguarding has been our top priority for development this term. A suite of new policies and procedures has been implemented and is having a positive impact so far. I mentioned in my last newsletter that we had just had an external review of safeguarding by an expert in the field. The review was wide ranging and involved many staff and students and the resulting report has provided us with an objective and useful benchmark of where we are. The detailed report includes quite a lot of detailed information that has been shared with Trust staff and our Academy Improvement Board (AIB). Some of the information in the report would identify individual students so we have produced a summary of the key points for parents to read. A copy of the summary is attached.

### **Uniform**

I was delighted to meet 10 parents last week for a discussion about school uniform that will shape our uniform policy from September 2022. It was a fascinating conversation and it brought up lots of issues for consideration. The main purpose of the meeting was to agree on some broad principles that will be developed into a uniform proposal that will be shared with parents after the break. Here are the underlying principles that we felt were important to shape the nature of our future uniform.

- It should be worn smartly by all and identifies them as Stantonbury students
- The uniform should include a blazer and tie as it is a formal dress code
- Uniform must be affordable and easily available from a range of suppliers including supermarkets
- We should find better ways of handing on uniform that is no longer needed so it can be worn again
- Reduce the number of branded items - particularly in the PE Kit
- Allowing the current uniform to be worn until it is outgrown or worn out - no expectation that everyone must buy a new uniform for September 2022.

I'll write again about uniform in the new year but if you have any comments about these principles then please email them in to [enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stantonbury.org.uk)

### **Catering**

In January, Cucina, our new caterers will be providing our canteen and deli service. As an external company they will bring a fresh look at our food offer and help to increase the number of students eating freshly prepared and nutritious meals. We will share the new menus with you before the end of term and you will see what an amazing offer there will be. Unfortunately, parents will see a modest increase in prices, but we think this will be offset by the additional choice of freshly prepared high quality food. The provision for students eligible for free school meals will remain unchanged and there will be some great deals on various menu options each week. Cucina already operates in other schools in the Trust and the feedback from students is very positive.

### **The new year**

When the school reopens after the break, we shall have moved three faculties into the new building. I have been visiting the site regularly and it is amazing to see the building ready for occupation. The facilities will be the envy of all the schools in Milton Keynes and I am looking forward to seeing the look on their faces as students enter the building for the first time.

Our focus on improving teaching and learning will again be our top priority as we start the spring term. We shall continue to embed the strong lesson routines, the Do Now activities and the climates for learning so that lessons can take place effectively. Our behaviour routines will also continue to be a high priority. We feel that there has been enough time for students to become familiar with the new rules so in the new year there will be an even higher expectation that students show that they can be responsible, respectful, and resilient learners.

I hope that families manage to spend some time together over the holiday period and that there is a chance to rest after a long and tiring term. We look forward to seeing the students back in school feeling refreshed in January.

Season's greetings



**Jim Parker**  
**Executive Principal**

