



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Executive Principal



STANTONBURY
SCHOOL

18th July 2022

Dear Stantonbury families

As we reach the last week of term it is a good time to reflect on the academic year as it draws to a close.

Before I do this, I would like to say a most sincere thank you to you as parents. You have been so supportive of the changes we have introduced and shown great willingness to work with us. As I have said before in previous newsletters, we are stronger when we work closely to develop the parent, student, and school relationship. I'd also like to say a huge well done to the students. They have adapted so well to the changes we have made and are beginning to demonstrate our core values of respect, responsibility, and resilience in the way that we want. Finally, I would like to thank the staff for working so hard to develop team Stantonbury. It is a genuine team effort to make any schoolwork effectively - the Stantonbury support staff and teachers have been amazing.

During the year we have focussed on three simple areas of focus **Be Here, Be Ready, Be Learning**. These have been our guiding principles to set Stantonbury School on the right journey of improvement.

Our **Be Here** agenda has focussed on attendance. Although for much of the year we have been in line with national average attendance levels we really need to improve attendance next year. Our current attendance figure across the school is 85% which is much lower than we would like - in reality this means that on average, each student has missed 27 days of school this year - that's 5 weeks! We know that Covid has continued to impact attendance rates but in a normal year we would expect average attendance to be 95%. There is plenty of evidence to show that students who attend well also achieve well so we must work together on this in September so that we make a positive start to the new year. We want all our students to achieve well and therefore need them to attend well.

Much of our work in the classroom this year has focussed on our **Be Ready** agenda. Establishing strong classroom routines has allowed learning to take place more effectively this year. There has been a particular focus on the beginning of lessons through our 'do now' activities that promote remembering knowledge and checking understanding. Student and staff feedback about this routine has been very positive and we shall keep this as a focus for next year. We have also developed climates for learning that help students to focus on the right behaviours at the right stage of the lesson. Again, the feedback has been positive but there is more to do to ensure that the climates for



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learning are consistently applied and understood by all. We are confident that by having stronger lesson routines learning is more effective and students know more and are remembering more.

In order to promote our **Be Learning** agenda we have trained teachers to provide them with the tools to deliver their lessons more effectively so that all learners make better progress. We have also focussed on how we manage behaviour more effectively, so it doesn't distract from learning. The quality of teaching has certainly improved over this year, and we are getting closer to our aim of all lessons being engaging and effective. Now good classroom routines are more well established we will be able to focus even more on this most important aspect of school.

Over the last year parents have had the opportunity to respond to a number of surveys about the work that the school is doing. Two of the surveys have come through the Stantonbury Parent Support Group via their excellent Facebook site (Thank you!). The other two surveys have come from the school leadership. It has been encouraging to see how many parents have taken time to provide their views, thoughts, and ideas. I am very pleased that the percentage of positive responses to most questions that were asked in the Autumn term has now increased in the Summer term survey. This shows there are increasing levels of trust and belief in what the school is doing to improve the education provided for the Stantonbury community. I recognise that there is still a lot to do before we can be claiming that everything is working well - however we have made a good start.

Being part of the Tove Learning Trust, we are able to access a range of support and expertise from Trust staff and this has certainly helped us to make the progress that we have made this year. As Executive Principal I have a key role to play in supporting Mr Wilson and the Leadership Team to ensure that Stantonbury becomes a very successful school, meets the ambitions of the Trust and the standards set by external agencies such as Ofsted. In 2018 I became Principal at Lord Grey Academy when it joined the Tove Learning Trust and was set the task of ensuring that it reached an Ofsted grading of good. I am pleased to say that following a full Ofsted section 5 inspection in May, Lord Grey was judged to be good in all areas. The Lord Grey team achieved this success by following the same principles and approaches that we are employing at Stantonbury. I have high hopes that when Ofsted next visit Stantonbury they will have a similarly positive view.



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The Tove Learning Trust's aim is to provide inspiring education that leads to outstanding outcomes, and I am very much looking forward to continuing to make the improvements needed to make this a reality.

I hope that you have a great summer break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jh.' with a period at the end.

Jim Parker
Executive Principal