



STANTONBURY  
SCHOOL

# QUALITY OF EDUCATION

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER - 2022



## Brilliant Club

We are delighted to announce that a group of Stantonbury students are enrolled in 'The Scholars Programme', part of the Brilliant Club, working with Oxford University.

The Scholars Programme begins and ends with a visit to a competitive university. Experiencing the intellectual and physical environment of university is a key part of The Scholars Programme which will provide pupils with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and ambition needed to be successful on the programme.

## Other stories you might like:

- Spotlight - focus on English
- Autumn topics
- Parents' Evenings
- Year 11 Mock exams
- Geography Trip



## Dear Families - You said, we did!

I am excited to write to you through our new format – the Quality of Education newsletter. In the academic year of 21/22, we asked for your feedback through a number of surveys. You told us that we needed to share more information about what your child is learning. You also asked for more opportunities to find out how your child is doing. In response to your feedback, we have planned the following for 22/23:

- A regular newsletter from the Quality of Education team
- More opportunities for families to meet with staff to discuss your child
- Frequent updates on the Stantonbury curriculum.

You will find some of this information in this newsletter. I hope you find it informative and useful. As ever, I welcome your feedback!

Best wishes,

*Sharon Lynch*

**Vice Principal**

### Priorities 22/23

The Quality of Education team has a clear set of priorities to drive school improvement:



- **Reading** - reading is a priority across the school and we want to ensure that explicit vocabulary instruction supports effective literacy development
- **Assessment** - we want to ensure that all teachers assess well, resulting in effective feedback which drives student progress
- **Self-study** - self-study is a clear expectation of students, which we will support by explicitly teaching study skills and providing accessible learning platforms which promote good progress

You will see references to these priorities in this newsletter and in other communication from the school, throughout the academic year.

## Spotlight - focus on English

In each edition of the Quality of Education newsletter, we will shine a light on one curriculum area. We want you to have a more detailed insight into your child's learning experience.

In this edition, the focus is on English.

### What is the purpose of studying English?

In Stantonbury, a main aim of the English curriculum is to develop students' understanding of themselves and the world they live in through the study of literature. In addition, we want to ensure that students can articulate their viewpoints and perspectives through effective communication.

### How is the curriculum designed?

From Year 7 through to Year 13, students in English experience a broad and rich range of literature, and the use of the English language. Students study a range of novels, plays and poems, exploring their origins and the contexts in which they were written. This leads to opportunities for students to apply their learning to creative outcomes such as poetry or short stories. Students also explore a range of non-fiction texts, leading to opportunities for debate, the development of viewpoints and the language skills required to articulate opinions effectively.

### How will my child be stretched by an ambitious curriculum?

The literature studied in each year group includes content that is 'age' and 'stage' appropriate. Nonetheless, individual students will be challenged across the English curriculum through the following:

- Using more advanced vocabulary
- Evaluating literature through perceptive and critical reading
- Creating texts which influence the reader
- Developing arguments which convince others

### How will my child be supported if they are struggling?

In English lessons, teachers will use the following strategies to help students access the **ambitious curriculum**:

- Provide writing frames for extended writing
- Read more difficult texts aloud
- Model examples on the board
- Break the learning down into '**chunks**', giving students a '**step by step**' approach
- Give word/ phrase banks to improve vocabulary
- Provide opportunities for students to collaborate before they are expected to work independently
- Give live verbal feedback in the lesson so that students know how to improve their work

### What else does the English department offer?

For targeted students in **Year 11, there are sessions after school each Wednesday**, with a qualified and experienced examiner for the AQA exam board - Ms Morrow and Ms Szladiczek. These groups are reviewed every 6 weeks, and student lists updated.

For students in KS4 with lower reading ages, there is support available through the Bedrock platform. Students can work at home or attend the study club in Portway.

For students in KS3 with lower reading ages, there are reading interventions during the school day. In addition, there is a 'Bedrock' club in Portway after school further details to follow!

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To support with GCSE English Literature, the English department has arranged for 'live performances/ workshops' to take place in school across the year. **Further details to follow!**

## Curriculum

If you would like to know more about your child's curriculum, please check out the curriculum page on our website [www.stantonbury-tove.org.uk/information/curriculum/faculties](http://www.stantonbury-tove.org.uk/information/curriculum/faculties)

The updating of the curriculum area is ongoing. We will communicate any changes. It is important that our families are informed of **'The 5 Entitlements of the Stantonbury Curriculum'**:

STEM

Arts

Physical  
wellbeing

Global  
citizenship

Skills  
for Life

**All students, regardless of background, prior attainment, SEN or EAL need will experience all of the '5 entitlements' throughout their Key Stage 3 and 4 curriculum.**

The '5 Entitlements' reflect our vision and values as a school. For further information, please see details on the website.

## Staff Training

You might find it useful to know what the focus of our staff training has been.

In September, in addition to a day's training on **'safeguarding', 'anti-bullying'** and **'harmful sexual behaviours'**, teaching staff enjoyed a whole day of bespoke workshops that they signed up to in order to improve their practice.

Workshops covered the following topics:

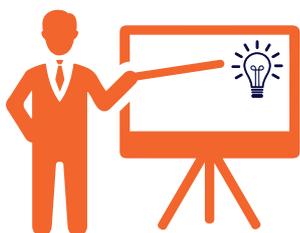
- resilience and growth mindset
- curriculum planning and development
- teaching to the top
- subject terminology
- active learning
- curriculum access for all
- using data strategically
- using Seneca

**On Friday 21st October**, all staff received training by the Tove Learning Trust. Teaching staff participated in workshops focussed on the following:

- Reading
- Assessment
- Quality First Teaching (meeting the needs of SEND students)
- Shifting the Balance - creating more independent learners

You will notice the alignment between the priorities of the school and the trust; this enables effective partnership working and the sharing of best practice.

In the afternoon session, teachers worked together in their departments and received training to enhance their subject knowledge. For example, in English, a Lead Examiner from AQA met with the English team to develop their practice even further.



You asked for more information regarding what your child is studying. Please see the overview of topics below. This is for the autumn term:



# Autumn Term Topics

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	Face-Novel study	Blood Brothers	Noughts and Crosses	An inspector Calls Language paper 1	Macbeth and Language Paper 1
Science	Cells, particles and forces	Periodic table, electricity and energy	Cell structure, cell division, atoms, energy	Cell division, digestive system, energy resources	Diseases, forces, motion
Maths	<a href="https://whiterosemaths.com/">https://whiterosemaths.com/</a>	<a href="https://whiterosemaths.com/">https://whiterosemaths.com/</a>	<a href="https://whiterosemaths.com/">https://whiterosemaths.com/</a>	GCSE Maths	GCSE Maths
History	Medieval England	Migration and the Commonwealth	WW1, WW2	Early Elizabethan England	The Elizabethans
Geography	Hot and Cold Desserts	Tectonics, climate, and resources	World forests, Superpowers	Changing cities, UK's Physical Landscapes	Global Development, Fieldwork
RS	Introduction to Religion	Introduction to Judaism	Thinking about morality		
MFL	All about Me	Holidays and Travel	Jobs and future plans	Family and relationships	Travel and Tourism
Art	Colour Theory, Kente cloth, Cultural Objects	Insects, Collage, Portraiture and Character Design	From Above Identity	Personal Project	Externally Set Task
Photography				Portraiture	Externally Set Task
BTEC Performing Arts					Skills Technique workshop

# Autumn Term

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
3D Design				Lamps and Lighting	Externally Set Task
Textiles				Our Planet	Externally Set Task
DT	Introduction to DT and Communication skills	Branding and Market forces	Recycling, Upcycling, Contemporary lighting	Key skills and Knowledge modules and Mini NEA	NEA Task counting towards 50%
PE	Skill Development	Fitness and Wellbeing	Employability Skills	Leadership Skills <b>GCSE PE:</b> Anatomy and Physiology <b>Cambridge National:</b> Performance & Leadership in sports activities	Mental Health & Stress Management <b>GCSE PE:</b> Contemporary issues in sport <b>Cambridge National:</b> Sports coaching
Music	Cracking the Code	Less is More	Get with the Programme	Musical Forms & Devices; Performing Practise Part 1	GCSE: Music for Stage & Screen; Fusions; BTEC: Unit 7 Introduction to Sequencing
Dance	Performing Dance Styles	Cultural Dance	Hip Hop	A Linha Curva	
Drama	Melodrama	Mime	Performance from a Text (Private Peaceful)	Practitioners and Component 1 (Devising)	Component 3 (An Inspector Calls)
Computer Science	Presenting information	Using spreadsheets	Flowcharts and Algorithms		
Media					Advertising Unit: NEA Mock: Moving Image Products (Short film/Music Video)



# Personification Poetry Workshop: Year 8

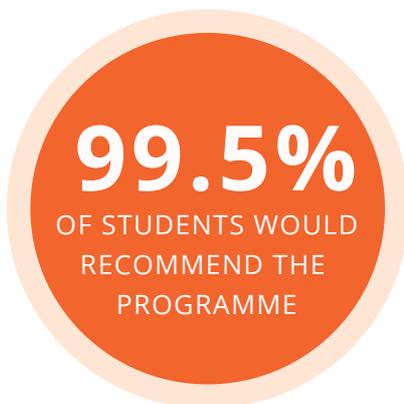
To celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday 6th October, we were lucky enough to have AS Creatives in school, to work with our Year 8 students on producing personification poems. Students worked in small groups to create their own poetry and also helped to contribute to a whole class poem. We had some fantastic creations and students really demonstrated their creative skills on the day. Here is an example of their amazing creations:

## Elevate - study skills in Key Stage 4

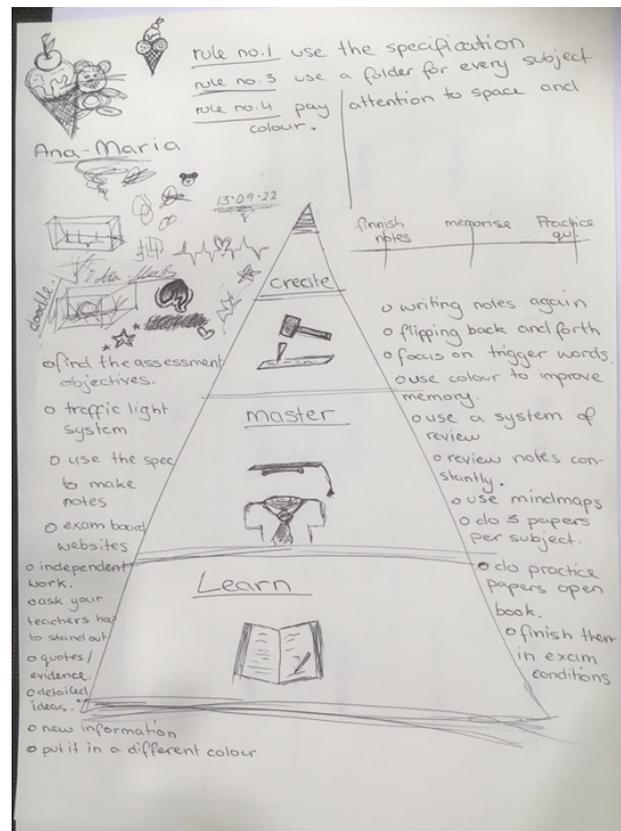
We are pleased to be continuing our partnership with Elevate Education. In May '22, we invited 10 presenters from Elevate Education to work with our Year 10 students. Each presenter delivered an 'Ace Your Exams' study skills session. It was fantastic to see how engaged our students were as they learned how to revise and prepare for their upcoming mock exams.

Student evaluation indicated that this was a very effective session that they really enjoyed: 99.5% of students said that they would recommend the programme and that it was a good use of time.

In September '22, we welcomed Elevate Education back into school to deliver an assembly to Year 11s on 'effective time planning'.



**I see desks, chairs, boys and a whiteboard and people shivering on a cold winter morning.  
(Tick tock, tick tock, this is the life of a clock...)  
I hear birdsong at dawn before scraping chairs, laughter and shouting. Pens writing until night time and then silence returns...  
(Tick tock, tick tock, this is the life of a clock...)  
I remember first and last days of school, the students who came and went and the emptiness of the summer.  
(Tick tock, tick tock, this is the life of a clock...)  
I feel brief happiness as my batteries are replaced, they speak of other clocks in other rooms.  
I dream of having legs and walking out of school before my time is up.**



We continue to support students in developing their study skills every Friday during tutor time. So far, students have learnt how to build a revision timetable and work effectively in study groups.

Elevate also offer webinars for parents. Please look out for future invitations.



## Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings below.

Please book appointments via **School Cloud**. The appointments for subject evenings will take place in school, **face to face** in our Turing building. Families will receive letters with booking instructions 3 weeks in advance. In addition to these subject evenings, there are two '**tutor evenings**' in the calendar. This gives families more opportunities across the year to discuss their child's progress with staff.

Key Stage 3		Key Stage 4		Key Stage 5	
Year 7	Thursday 9 March 2023	Year 10	Thursday 25 May 2023	Year 12	Thursday 9 February 2023
Year 8	Thursday 4 May 2023	Year 11	Thursday 3 November 2022	Year 13	Thursday 9 February 2023
Year 9	Thursday 23 February 2023				

Our first Subject Parents' Evening was for year 11 families on **Thursday 3rd November**. This was a vitally important event for all families, as it is taking place just 3 weeks before the first series of year 11 exams. We want to work with families to ensure that all students are fully prepared for the year ahead, so that they understand how to perform at their best in their final exams.

The next **Tutor Evening** is on **Thursday 12th January 2023**.

## Year 11 Mock exams

This month, our Year 11 students will sit their first round of exams in preparation for next summer. We shared the schedule of exams with families at the **Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 3rd November**. This is the first chance in year 11 for our students to show off their potential, as the grades that they achieve will help them to reflect on their next steps into Sixth Form, College or Apprenticeship. This is an exciting, but nervous time for our students as they undertake an extended period of exams that spans 2 school weeks.

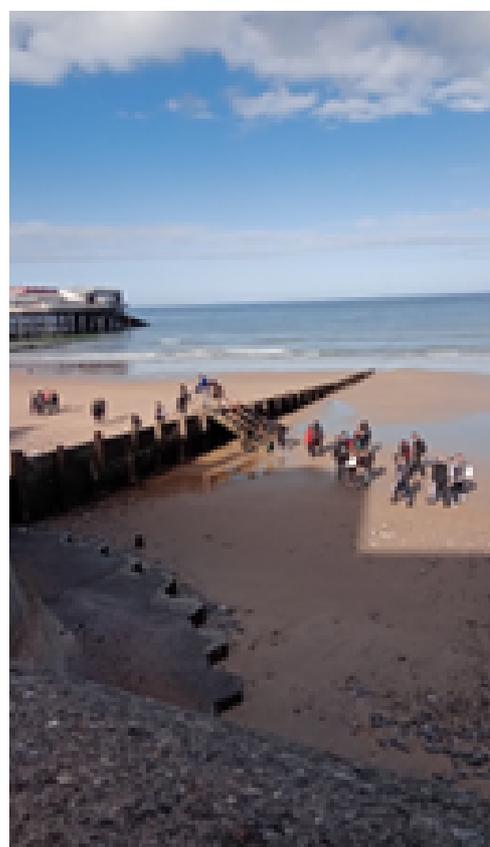
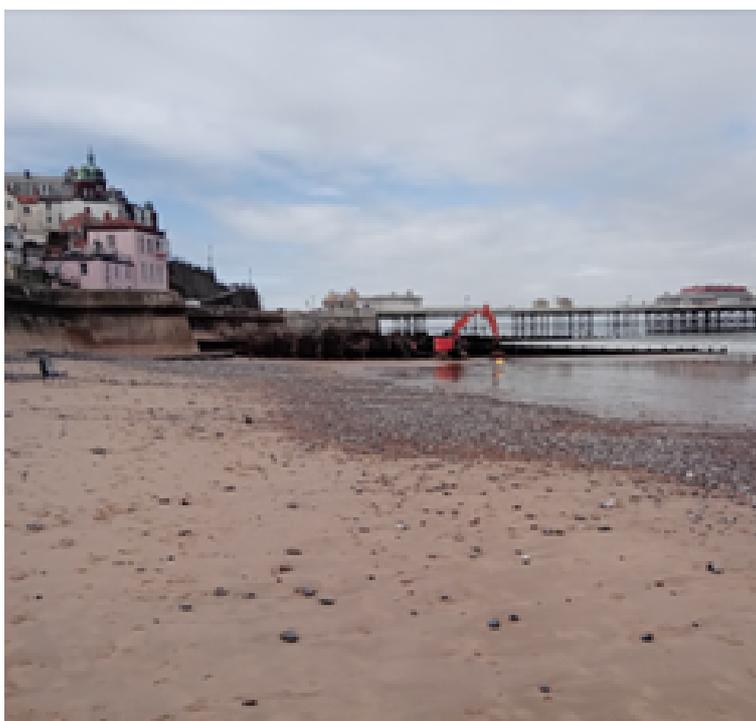
From home, families can support by encouraging students to commit to, and follow a revision timetable. Practising good revision and lifestyle habits now will pay dividends next year when the pressure of the final exams makes an impression on all of our students and their families.

**Students will receive their results before the Christmas break** along with the latest reports from their teachers. Teachers will be using these results to identify students' individual strengths and gaps for the term ahead. We wish all of our students the very best of luck in these exams, and encourage every single one of them to aim for the stars!

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## Geography Trip

As part of our GCSE Geography course, Year 11 students were given the opportunity to take part in fieldwork experience. Students travelled to Cromer, Norfolk, to explore themes of coastal erosion, sediment transportation, coastal defences and coastal land uses. Students practised a range of fieldwork techniques and took notes to take back to lessons to work on further, in order to help them prepare for their final exams.



## Study clubs

We are pleased to announce that we now have **Study Clubs** for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 students.

This will include access to our ICT suites in the Portway building, and staff to provide advice and support on self-study. This is an opportunity for students to complete any work that would require a device and/or internet access, or simply an opportunity for a quiet place to study.

- **Years 7, 8 and 9** are invited on **Thursdays** after school until 4pm
- **Years 10 and 11** are invited on **Tuesdays** after school until 4pm

The Sixth Form students continue to have access to a wide range of resources including their own study area equipped with both fixed computers and laptops.



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## Bedrock

Bedrock is a literacy and vocabulary programme. All Key stage 3 students now have access to this learning platform. Students should use their school login details to complete work at home, they should spend one to two hours per week working through the programme.

## Seneca

All students have access to Seneca, however, it is mainly aimed at our KS4 and KS5 students. This is a **website that provides revision material, quizzes and mock exam style questions** to support students in their GCSE courses. Students may be set homework directly from their teachers signposting them to topics they would like them to focus on, or students are able to use this site themselves to revisit topics or even read ahead to what's coming next to give them a head start. For example, in geography a student may have identified climate change as a gap in their knowledge and they would then be able to find revision material on this specific topic. Subjects covered by Seneca include maths, science, English literature and language, geography, RE, history, MFL and many more.

Students should log into this with their normal school email details. If they unsure of how to do this they can watch a short video clip here showing them how.



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