

# STANBOROUGH SCHOOL

## Information Booklet

2019 - 2020

High Expectations | Mutual Respect | Quality Learning | Success for All



*It is a great privilege to serve as the Headteacher of Stanborough School.*

Stanborough is a co-educational specialist Mathematics and Computing Academy for 11-19 year olds. Since 1939, Stanborough has been a leading school in Welwyn Garden City.

Our aim is simple. We want to be a truly outstanding school in every sense of the word and we want to be confident that our students get the best possible education that is ambitious, varied and stimulating. At the heart of everything we do is a desire to ensure that our students receive the highest standards of teaching and learning. Our curriculum is broad and academically challenging in order to prepare students for the rigours of further study or work.

At Stanborough, we care passionately about the development of your child's character, their personality and social skills, the way they treat others and the contribution they make to society.

Our school is a place where staff are proud to work, parents want to send their children and students share a strong sense of belonging and community. The relationship we build with our parental community is of paramount importance to us. Working in partnership with parents and carers is essential to ensure our students thrive, achieve and enjoy their time as members of our wider family. Together we nurture their enquiring minds and inspire them to pursue their dreams, leaving our sixth form ready to excel in a future which has limitless possibilities.

The true hallmark of Stanborough is the high quality of the relationships between adults and students right across the school. I believe that this is evident from the moment you walk through our doors. I strongly encourage you to make a visit and see for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Mrs M John

# The Curriculum at Stanborough

## Key Stage 3 (11-13)

At Key Stage 3, students study the full range of national curriculum subjects. This includes Life Skills lessons on relationships, healthy living, personal finances and citizenship. Students sit end of year exams at the end of Year 7 and Year 8 to assess their progress.

The IT curriculum, which starts for all students in Year 7, reflects the school's high expectations as a Specialist Mathematics and Computing Academy. The students follow a differentiated pathway in IT as they progress through the school depending on their individual skills and talents. This includes subjects such as Computing, App Design and more traditional software skills.

## Key Stage 4 (14-16)

**Students opt for their Key Stage Four options in Year 8 allowing for three years of study following a number of pathways starting in Year 9.**

All students at Key Stage 4 follow a core curriculum of Maths, English and English Literature, Science, Cultures, Society and Ethics.

We offer a varied and exciting Key Stage 4 curriculum which allows students to also choose from a wide variety of courses over the 3 years of study. The courses on offer to current Year 9 students are:

Art and Design GCSE	Geography
Art Textiles	History
Business	Media
Child Development	Music
Computer Science GCSE	Physical Education
Creative iMedia	Psychology
Dance BTEC	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
Drama GCSE	Science (Separate Science)
French	Spanish
Hospitality & Catering	Sports Studies

### Key Stage 5 (16-19)

As well as offering a wide range of subjects at Key Stage 5, we also aim to provide students with opportunities to extend their personal skills in the Sixth Form.

A comprehensive enrichment programme offering subjects such as Finance, Dance, Sports Leadership and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is taken by all students.

The Sixth Form also has a strong emphasis on developing leadership skills for all students. A Sixth Form Ambassador and Prefect system allows students to take on many leadership roles within the school community.

### A Level

Art unendorsed	English Language	Music
Biology	English Literature	Music Technology
Business Studies	Further Maths	Philosophy
Computer Science	History	Physical Education
Core Mathematics	Geography	Physics
Drama and Theatre Studies	Mathematics	Politics and Government
Economics	Media Studies	Psychology
		Spanish

### BTEC Level 3 and other Accredited Courses

Dance Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate	Information Technology Level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate
Financial Studies LIBF L3 Diploma	

## Subject Overviews

### Art Design and Technology

We strive to inspire, enthuse and excite students in a creative curriculum, pushing the limitations of self-expression through a variety of different disciplines. Students are provided with a breadth of knowledge and transferable skills that encourage independence, critical thinking and self-confidence. As well as innovative and engaging lessons in school, we boast a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities to enthuse students in the limitless possibilities and potential career paths within the creative industries.

### Business Studies

An understanding of business and enterprise is central to the world in which we live. The business curriculum encourages students to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. The aim of the business department is to support students develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

### Child Development

We aim to inspire and enthuse students to consider a career in early years, or related sectors, where knowledge of child development is relevant. Students will be given the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the early years' sector, for example, health and well-being for child development, equipment and nutritional needs of children and development of a child from birth to five years. The course supports progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic course, such as in early years, health and social care or psychology, or an apprenticeship, and gives students the opportunity, in due course, to enter employment.

### Dance

Dance at Stanborough helps students develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and appreciation of professional works.

Students taking part in dance at Stanborough increase their confidence and self-esteem, employ the skills of problem solving and creativity as well as developing

teamwork and leadership skills. We aim to offer a wide range of opportunities for dance students including performances in school productions, leading and participating in dance clubs and a range of trips to dance events throughout the year.

### **Drama**

In drama we aim to promote an interest in and love of drama and the theatre. As directors, performers or designers students will develop, or deepen, a passion for the subject. The drama curriculum will not only introduce students to a range of work and performance styles from a wide mix of cultures, it will also help students to grow as people. They will become more effective communicators, more effective leaders and more effective team members. Their self-confidence will also grow through group work and performance.

### **English**

In English we help students to develop a life-long love of language and literature. Our aim is to ensure not only that students achieve the best qualifications they can but that they enjoy their experience of English. We want them to read with enthusiasm and understanding and write with confidence and style. They should also be able to listen to others with respect and attention and talk with confidence in formal and informal situations. By the time they leave Stanborough, students will be able to express their thoughts and feelings clearly, accurately and creatively in both speech and writing.

### **Geography**

At Stanborough we provide students with a range experiences that will improve and advance their contextual understanding of the world.

Our aims are to give students the chance to demonstrate their:

- Knowledge of location, places, and geographical features;
- Understanding of the processes and interactions that explain these features, distributions and patterns over time and space.
- Competence and skills in the geographical enquiry process such as observing, collecting, analysing, mapping and communicating geographical information.

We aim for all students to be able to understand how they can apply their geographical knowledge and skills so that they can carry on and be successful in to their future both in school and beyond.

## **Government and Politics**

Government and politics at Stanborough offers students the opportunity to engage with contemporary political events, decisions and personalities. Students are challenged to draw comparisons with the past and identify differences or changes in the political landscape as they occur. The subject offers students the opportunity to develop their own political opinions and have those opinions challenged by their classmates. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of different political perspectives and to always find a means of supporting their views with concrete examples/evidence.

## **History**

Our aim in History is to help students gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. In lessons we aim to inspire students' curiosity to know more about the past. We aim to equip students to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps students to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

## **IT & Computing**

IT & Computing at Stanborough offers students a dynamic insight into the world of IT and Computer Science. We offer students a range of activities on a number of platforms including the use of a range of websites, online interactive activities and hands on in-class learning.

The aim of the IT & Computing Faculty is to ensure students and staff at Stanborough School are autonomous users of IT and that students develop into creators of IT through computing, preparing them for life in an ever changing world.

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. At Stanborough we are committed to developing excellent teaching and learning in mathematics, incorporating a wide range of approaches to ensure students enjoy and succeed at mathematics. We aim to provide students with a solid understanding of mathematical concepts which will help them in their further studies and careers, as well as in their exams. Students will look at all aspects of

mathematics including number, shape and space, ratio and proportion, algebra and statistics.

### **Media Studies**

The media studies curriculum offers students the chance to develop investigative, critical-thinking and decision-making skills through consideration of issues that are important, real and relevant in the media-saturated world we live in. The aim of the subject is to enable media students to draw on their existing experience of the media and to develop their abilities to explore as well as to create media.

### **MFL**

Learning another language is the best way to get to know another country and its people. At Stanborough we aim to provide a climate which will enthuse and inspire students as well as develop the confidence and competency of all students to communicate in the foreign language. We encourage students to develop their skills in speaking, reading, listening and writing at all Key Stages, by developing a curriculum suited to their needs and abilities.

### **Music**

Music is central to life at Stanborough. Through music lessons and extra-curricular activities we aim to develop a lifelong love of music. Students are encouraged to develop their skills in composition, performance, listening and arranging. Students have many opportunities to take part in extra-curricular music through choirs, the orchestra and other musical ensembles, concerts and tuition and we celebrate the energy and talent we have at Stanborough whenever we can.

### **PE**

Our aim in PE is to develop a lifelong love of sport and physical activity and to foster a healthy and active lifestyle. Through PE we teach the key skills of co-operation, leadership, team spirit, perseverance, competition, friendship, creativity, communication, confidence and respect for others, as well as the technical and tactical elements of the full range of sports.

### **Psychology**

Psychology is a fascinating and challenging subject involving the study of human behaviour. On this course, students will gain valuable insight into key mechanisms for

learning, thinking and understanding the world we live in. They will learn about how children develop, be able to make links between the human brain and body and know about the things that make individuals different from each other such as personality and mental illness. Students will have the opportunity to appreciate the scientific nature of Psychology through practical experiments as well as gaining a holistic understanding of the subject through engaging in contemporary Psychology debates.

### **Religion, Philosophy and Ethics**

In religion, philosophy and ethics we cover all aspects of religious life and enable students to not only learn about religion, but also to learn from religion. The subject helps students at Stanborough to develop spiritually and morally and to become emotionally intelligent members of our community. In all key stages students follow the Agreed Syllabus for Hertfordshire, which entails a study of the major world religions present in Britain (Christianity is studied at each Key Stage). Students have an opportunity to study Philosophy for A-Level.

### **Science**

In Science we aim to enthuse all students in the applications of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. We focus on developing knowledge of key concepts and highlight the range of applications of the three science disciplines in their everyday life and the important contributions science makes in society. We develop students' practical skills with frequent lab work which allows them to investigate scientific principles for themselves and develops their analytical skills.

## Achievement and Enrichment

As well as achievement in the classroom, we offer many other opportunities for students to achieve in activities and events outside of the classroom. These opportunities are offered to help us achieve our goal of '**Excellence for All**' as part of a broad education.

### ***Examples of Student Achievement 2018 - 2019***

#### **Maths, Science and Technology**

Maths Challenge - 3 Best in School, 9 Best in Year, 12 Gold, 29 Silver, 36 Bronze.  
Nine follow-on round qualifiers, including one merit.

Engineering & Skills Award winners at the Robot Rumble

Hertfordshire Regional Lego Robotics Competition – hosted by Stanborough School

Set up and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Welwyn Hatfield Primary School Robotics Competition with 10 schools taking part.

VEX National Robotics Competition –UK National Championship qualifiers for 3 years in a row

Glider Challenge design and presentation winners

#### **The Arts**

House Dance Competition with over 30 performances

Drama and Music Production – Our House

2 'Evening of Dance' events held at the school and local theatre

Over 100 students from all year groups took part in 3 music concerts during the year including, for the first time, a Year 7 concert

House Drama Competition

#### **Sport**

##### ***Netball***

Year 8 and 10 District Tournament Runners up

##### ***Girls Futsal/Football:***

- Two students selected for Arsenal Ladies
- One student selected for England U16.

**Indoor Athletics:**

- Year 7 Girls District Champions.
- Year 7 Boys District Champions.

**Athletics:**

- Year 10 Boys District Champions.
- Year 9 Boys District Third Place
- Year 8 Boys District Third Place

**Basketball:**

- Year 10 District Champions
- Year 9 District Runners up
- Year 9 Boys District Tournament Runners up
- Year 8 Boys District 3rd place
- Year 7 Boys District League Runners up

**Rounders:**

- Year 10 District Champions
- Year 8 District runners up

**Football:****Year 10 District Semi Finalist**

- Year 11 District Semi Finalist
- Senior Boys District Semi Finalist
- 9 Boys representing Mid Herts District

**Other**

Over £10,000 raised by School for Ollie Foundation – the School Charity for the year.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - In the last 6 years, the total number of Bronze awards is 182 and 19 Gold Awards. The Bronze Award is offered to all Year 10 students and the Gold Award to Year 12 and Year 13 students to complete over 2 years.

## Educational Visits 2018 – 2019

We encourage learning beyond the classroom and the school site.

Below are some of the learning experiences offered to our students during the 2018 – 2019 academic year:

- Year 12 AMGEN Biotech Experience
- Year 8 MBDA Girls in Engineering Day
- Post 16 GenerationeXt to Roche, WGC
- Year 12 Wellcome Genome Campus – Cambridge
- Post 16 visit to Skills London 2019
- Year 12 Textiles visit to London
- Year 9 PE visit to XC Climbing Centre, Hemel Hempstead
- Year 8 D&T Faraday challenge at Sherrardswood School, WGC
- Year 10 Maths enrichment Day at University of Hertfordshire
- Post 16 Government & Politics visit to Houses of Parliament
- Year 13 French Revision Conference, London
- Year 12 Spanish Literature & Film Study Day, London
- Year 8 visit to Paris
- Year 10 & 11 students visit to a Cambridge College
- Year 9-12 visit to NHS information event at University of Hertfordshire
- Activity week visits to Whipsnade Zoo, Paintballing, Scuba Diving, Sailing, 10-Pin Bowling, Fishing, Thorpe Park, Theatre visits to London.

## Clubs and Activities

At Stanborough, we encourage students to take part in clubs and activities during the lunch break and after school. Below is a list of some of the many extra-curricular activities offered to our students:

IT and Computing	Brass Ensemble
Badminton	Guitar Club
Rounders	STAGS – Boys Choir
Cricket	Vocalini – Girls Choir
Athletics	Music Practice
Girls Football	Flute Group
Indoor Football	Ukele Group
Softball	String Group
Basketball	Senior Choir
Volleyball	Percussion Ensemble
Dance Club	Concert Orchestra
Football	Debate Club
Netball	Crochet
Debate Club	Young Fashion Designers

## Examination Results 2019

2019 is the first year in which all GCSE subjects have been assessed on the new Grade 9-1 scale. These changes make it very difficult to provide parents with a clear picture as to the school's exam results in relation to previous years' results.

### A Level Results 2019

Students achieved very well at 'A' Level with 45% of Grades at A\* to B level. Overall, our results exceeded national expectations in terms of the progress made by students through the Sixth Form.

Notable performances included:

- Further Maths with 88% A\* - B
- Core Maths with 86% A\* - B
- French with 67% A\* - B
- Sociology with 67% A\* - B
- History with 64% A\* - B

### GCSE and BTEC Results 2019

79% of students achieved Grade 4 or above in Maths and 80% achieved a Grade 4 or above in English. Other notable successes included:

- Biology: 93% Grade 4 or above
- Sports Studies: 92% Grade 4 or above
- Physics: 92% Grade 4 or above
- Computing: 87% Grade 4 or above
- French: 86% Grade 4 or above
- Music: 81% Grade 4 or above

If you wish to enquire further about examination results at any level, please contact: Ms D Kohls, Deputy Headteacher ([dkohls@stanborough.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dkohls@stanborough.herts.sch.uk))

## Policies and Communication with School

### Admissions Policy

The Admissions Policy for Stanborough School is set within the Hertfordshire County Council framework and is outlined in the, 'Moving on to Secondary school' booklet that is distributed to all Year 6 parents in Hertfordshire.

Admissions for students aged 11-16 are conducted in accordance with the County admissions criteria.

Enquiries about admission to the Sixth Form should be made directly to the school.

### Stanborough Policies

Many of our school policies are available on the school website

[www.stanborough.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stanborough.herts.sch.uk)

including our policies on Behaviour, Safeguarding, Charging, SEN and Disability Provision.

Alternatively, a request can be made to the School Office for a copy of any of our policies.

### Communication

The Stanborough Times is our weekly newsletter which is sent to parents via email (paper copies are sent home if a parent is unable to receive letters by email). This provides regular updates on upcoming events and information about activities that have taken place within school and highlights our students' achievements.

This is also accessible on our school website as are copies of all letters sent home.

# Stanborough School

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**Chair of Governors:** Neil Hounsom

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