# STANBOROUGH TIMES

Edition 7: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

#### Message from the Headteacher - Mrs John

This week, we were pleased to launch the Blended Learning at Stanborough School with our Year 7 cohort. Devices ordered through Freedom Tech have been numbered, named, and distributed to students. Over two days, students were taken off timetable to participate in an introductory session to familiarise themselves with their new devices. We are very excited for our Year 7 students to begin this new teaching and learning journey, making full use of the latest educational technology. From Monday 3rd November, all Year 7 students will be expected to come to school prepared with a fully charged device and headphones each day. As part of the welcome information pack shared when Year 7 places were allocated, students were invited to complete a Reading Journey. Congratulations to all those who completed and submitted theirs! Every entry has been reviewed by our Literacy Team, and this year's winners across various categories are announced over the page. Next week, school will be closed for half term, and we wish all families a restful and enjoyable break. A reminder that our Year 11 students will begin their first round of mock exams shortly after we return in November, and we wish them every success in their revision and preparation.

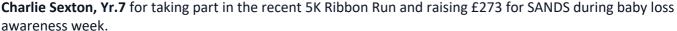
#### **Headteacher's Commendations**

**Sonny Barrett, Yr.7** for being an incredibly positive Stanborough role model.

**Althea Stylianou, Yr.7** for outstanding achievements in extracurricular activities outside of school.

**Amber Saunders, Yr.7** for outstanding voluntary research work on a Hispanic Festival.

**Rio Best, Yr.7** for excellent support with the recent Green Lanes Primary athletics morning.



Jenil Vadalia, Yr.8 for an outstanding start to the term and being an excellent Stanborough role model.

Oscar Cook and Daisy Savine, Yr.9 for volunteering at the recent Willow Foundation 10K run.

**Henry Sheard, yr.9** for excellent support at Holwell Primary school, joining the year 6 class and helping with lessons.

**Luke Johnson, Yr.9** for exceptional use of his ADT skill set to devise some exemplar resources for older year groups.

**Kaitlin Hawkins, Yr.9** for excellent volunteer work at her primary school for their recent Gardening Morning. **Imara Fanning, Yr.9** for outstanding support in the ADT department for Open Evening 2025.

**Sophie Martinez, Imara Fanning and Niah Cowan, Yr.9** for representing the under 14s in a recent Rugby Tournament and winning with Welwyn Rugby Club.

**Svanik Kandarapu, Yr.10,** for an outstanding start to Stanborough School.

**Gabriel Carvalho, Yr.11** for volunteering for additional prefect duties to support the school community. **Emelia Hickey, Yr.11** for representing the under 16s in a recent Rugby Tournament and winning with Welwyn Rugby Club.

#### **Quote of the week:**

"Determination gives you the resolve to keep going in spite of the roadblocks that lay before you." **Denis Waitley** 

Wish you a restful half term break. Mrs John





## **Headteacher Commendations**





#### **Forthcoming Events**

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Week A

$5^{th}-24^{th}$	Year 11 Mock Exams
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Event
11	Year 12/13 Maths Competition, Cambridge
19 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge
19	British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1
25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 11 & Year 13 Media Studies Moderation Session
25	Year 12 Gelli Press Workshop
27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 12/13 A Level Language Conference, London
28 <sup>th</sup>	Occasional Day, school closed

#### **Farewell**

Mrs Armitage, Deputy Headteacher, writes:

Mrs Kelly, Post 16 Support Co-ordinator

Sharyn has been a much loved and valued member of the 6<sup>th</sup> form team since 2019. She joined the Stanborough community at exactly the same time as me and has been an absolute tower of strength to us all. There is no one who can keep a room of 100 students silent with a single look quite as well as her! She has absolutely had the students at the heart of all she has done, always going over and above in her support; home visits, shopping trips, wellbeing calls, she has done it all. We will miss her professionalism, positivity and general can-do attitude. She has been amazing to work with, and we wish her all the very best for whatever the future holds for her.

Ms Maughan, Post 16 Support Co-ordinator

Julie was a newer addition to our happy team, but in a short space of time she has become equally as invaluable. As soon as she started with us, it was like she had always been here, she instantly built strong relationships with staff and students alike. We will miss her wicked sense of humour, her kind and caring nature and her relentless support for our students. She has made quite the dream team alongside Sharyn and I'm not sure what I did wrong to lose both at once!

We wish both Sharyn and Julie all the very best, we will miss them.

Ms Saba, Teaching Assistant

Mrs Stratton, Assistant SENDCo, writes:

We want to say a sad farewell to Alex Saba, who leaves Stanborough on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Your patience, no matter the situation, will be missed. Thank you for supporting our students and we wish you well in your new role.

#### **Arbor**

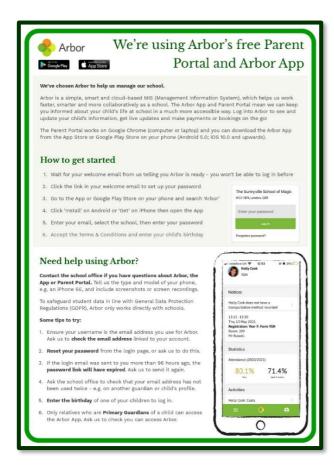
Mr Green, Assistant Headteacher, writes;

Just a reminder that you can access Arbor using the Arbor Apps or via the online portal,

https://login.arbor.sc/

There is an app for parents and also an app for students.

Further information is available at: <a href="https://stanborough.herts.sch.uk/arbor-access/">https://stanborough.herts.sch.uk/arbor-access/</a>





Arbor

#### **Root Word of the Week**

W/c 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025



#### Social Media @ Stanborough

Follow us on X, Facebook and Instagram to see all our news, events, updates and student successes

X - @StanboroughS

Facebook - StanboroughschoolWGC

Instagram - Stanboroughschool

LinkedIn -

https://www.linkedin.com/company/stanborough-school/









#### **Super Curriculum and Proud Thursdays**

Mr Persand, Deputy Headteacher, writes;

We are excited to share two new initiatives for our Key Stage 3 students this term: **The Super Curriculum** and **Proud Thursdays**. Both are designed to encourage curiosity, creativity and confidence, helping our students go beyond the classroom and celebrate their achievements.

### **Super Curriculum**

The Super Curriculum gives students the chance to explore their subjects in greater depth and discover what truly interests them. Each subject offers activities that extend learning beyond lessons, helping to build knowledge, confidence and independent thinking.



These activities come under four simple categories:

Read. Watch. Listen. Do.

They might include reading an article, watching a short documentary, listening to a podcast or completing a practical task linked to a subject.

Taking part helps students to:

- Develop a genuine love for their favourite subjects
- Explore areas of interest before choosing GCSE options
- Gain wider experiences and new perspectives
- Build ideas and opinions through independent study

Students can find all the activities on our website at <a href="https://stanborough.herts.sch.uk/super-curriculum/">https://stanborough.herts.sch.uk/super-curriculum/</a>.

Once an activity is completed, students should email their work or reflection to supercurriculum@stanborough.herts.sch.uk to earn reward points and recognition for their effort.

## **Proud Thursdays**

Every Thursday lunchtime, students can bring along something they are proud of to the *Proud Table*. It could be a piece of creative writing, artwork, a science project, a maths problem they solved, a history or geography poster, or even a Super Curriculum activity they completed.



Each week, up to ten students will have the chance to present their work, receive reward points, and celebrate their success.

To take part, students can sign up on the sheet outside Mr Persand's office.

We are really looking forward to seeing our KS3 students embrace these opportunities, explore their interests, and show off what makes them proud to learn.

#### **Literacy Review**

Ms Davies, Literacy Co-ordinator, writes;

#### **Stanborough's Literacy Team**

Nurturing confident Readers; quality Writers and articulate Speakers.

Our Literacy work at Stanborough aims to support and enrich each student's Reading, Writing and Oracy skills by offering specific in-class teacher support and a rich programme of extra-curricular Literacy events.

With 2026 having been deemed **The National Year of Reading** by the Government, we are working to further develop our Reading for Pleasure (RfP) and wider Literacy provisions.

#### 1. Nurturing Reading for Pleasure

To help our Year 6 students transition confidently to Year 7, our annual Reading Journey project has, once again, proved exceptionally successful this year with a higher percentage of winning entries than ever before! We were stunned, not only by the quality of our entries, but also with the diversity of ways in which our students are now engaging with the task, including one entry sent in video format and another created out of an air clay birthday gift!! We loved each and every one and, for the first time ever, are delighted to share with you each of ten the winning entries.

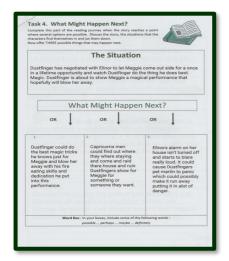


# Best Inspired Oscar Atkins, 7HC



Oscar recreated, then filmed, a scene from Hamlet, using the family toys as Shakespearan characters

Best Original
Amelia Sycamore, 7SE



Best Creative Zachary Winter, 7BP



Best Presented Jen Quizzagan, 7HM

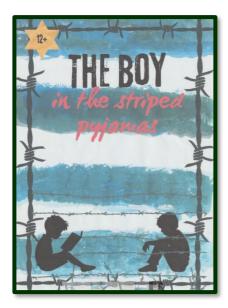


Best Film Poster

1st

Boy In Striped Pyjamas

Hugo Camm, 7SE



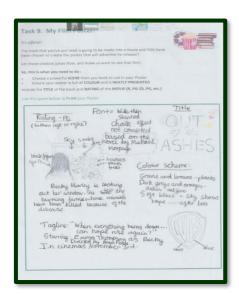
Best Film Poster
2<sup>nd</sup>
Girl of Ink & Stars
Isabella Grover, 7KL



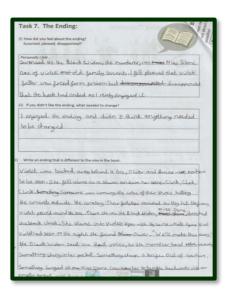
Best Film Poster
3<sup>rd</sup>
The Island ..
Amber Saunders, 7KK



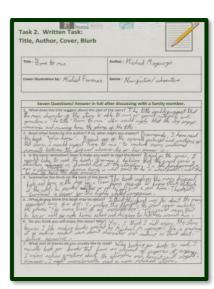
#### Best Planned Film Poster Keerthi Muddi, 7SE



#### Best Written Quality Megan Murray, 7BM



#### Best Written Quantity Ethan Botes, 7BP



#### 2. Nurturing Social Writing Skills

Following the submission of 25 in-class, end-of-module Year 9 Letters to Sir Keir Starmer (Summer Term: English - Knife Crime In The UK) in which pupils wrote passionately about their views on knife crime with suggestions to the Government on how best to tackle it, we were thrilled to receive a response from the Government's Direct Communications Unit, writing on behalf of the Prime Minster - which is printed here.

We are delighted to share our Year 10's inspiring responses to their letter from 10 Downing Street with the Stanborough Community below.

Participating students now have a copy both of the Government's letter and their own Year 9 assessment letter stuck proudly in their current Year 10 English books, making this a rewarding and inspiring start to their English GCSE studies

#### **Our Year 10 Student Responses:**

- I am **surprised** ... we are an ordinary Secondary School in Hertfordshire ..
- I'm really proud. He has recognised our concern and reassured us the Government is taking action.
- I am **relieved** ... it means that knife crime will be stopped with a bit of hard work.
- I did **not believe** I would ever get a message back
- I feel **really excited** .. I didn't expect him to care.
- I feel very accomplished and satisfied .. it means his government thought our letters were good.
- I'm excited .. I didn't expect him to write back.



#### **Student Success**

- ➤ Helena, 10SM, who is the Head Chorister at St Francis church, has achieved her 'St Francis Chorister Award', passing with merit. In the exam, she had to sing five pieces of music, undertake sight reading, aural and music theory tests, and demonstrate her understanding of the role of a chorister.
- Good luck to Isabel, 7SE, who is performing in an amateur dramatics pantomime, "Cinderella Goes All Inclusive" next week.







#### **Staff Success!**

Congratulations to our Head of Maths, Miss Masterson who, as part of the Gaelic Football Team, won the Great British Junior Gaelic Football Championship.

Sarah and her team will now be competing internationally! We are delighted and proud to have such a great athlete amongst us!!!



#### **Question of the Week**

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Mr McCarthy writes:

Well done to all who found the connections between Hinduism and Buddhism. There were many but here is a snapshot of some:

Reincarnation/Karma/Nirvana/Mediation/Practice of non-violence

This weeks question of the week is another comparison question:

Prior to Christianity becoming the religion of the Roman Empire the most popular religion was Mithraism. Can you find five similarities between Mithraism and Christianity?

Don't forget to include your full name and class. Thanks for playing and good luck!

#### **Clubs and Activities Autumn Term 2025**

We are very pleased to be able to offer students a variety of extra-curricular clubs and activities and encourage students to take part in at least two extra-curricular activities a week.

#### Lunch Time

Day	Club/Activity	Year Group	Location	Member of staff responsible
Monday	Young Carers Group (invite only)	Year 7 - 11	G6	Mrs Stratton
ivioliday	Culture & Change Society	All Years	G1	Mr Torindo
Tuesday	Whizzy Wizards' Writing Workshop	Year 7-9	F5	Miss Davies
Wednesday	Concert Band (Woodwind & Brass)	All Years	MD4	Miss Naylor
	Music Theory Club	All Years	MD3	Miss Naylor
Thursday	LGBTQ+ Group	All Years	F6	Ms Butcher
	Script Writing Club	Year 9+	C4	Mrs Buist
Friday	Music Technology Club	All Years	MD3	Mr Mollison

#### After School

Day	Club/Activity	Year Group	Time	Location	Member of staff responsible
	Chorus	All Years	3-4pm	MD3	Miss Naylor & Mr Mollison
Monday	House Dance Rehearsals	All Years	3-4.15pm	Gym	Miss Novelli
	3D Design Club	All Years	3-4pm	A4	Mr Beevor
	Nature & Eco Club	All Years	3-4.15pm	Meet in S10	Dr Jolly
Tuesday	Sound and Light Team	All Years	3-4pm	MD2	Mr Mollison
	Coding Club (Wk A) Lego Robotics ( Wk B)	All Years	3-4pm	C1	Mr Brown
Wednesday	School of Rock	Performers	3-4pm	MD1	Miss Naylor, Mr Mollison, Mr Jones, Mrs Thaker
	Debate Club	All Years	3.15-4.30pm	F6	Miss Butcher
Thursday	Chess Club	All Years	3-4pm	LRC	Miss Wilson
	Instrumental Club	Year 7-9	3-4pm	MD2	Mr Mollison
Friday	Maths Enrichment	All Years	3.30-4.30pm	С3	Mrs Coldwell

#### **Sports & PE Extra Curricular Clubs**

The SOCS Sports Calendar is now available on our website under What's On/Sports Calendar, Stanborough School, Welwyn Garden City | Sports Home

	Lunch time (1.20pm – 1.55pm)	Year	Location	Teacher in charge
Monday	Basketball	Year 10 & 11	Sports Hall	Mr Minion
Tuesday	Dance	All Years	Gym	Miss Novelli
Tuesday	Basketball	Year 7, 8 & 9	Sports Hall	Mr Harris
Wednesday	Volleyball	All Years	Sports Hall	Mr Foster
Thursday	Girls Basketball	All Years	Sports Hall	Miss Novelli
Friday	Badminton	All Years	Sports Hall	Mr Harris

	Afterschool (3.00-4.15pm)	Year	Location	Teacher in charge	
	Girls Football	All Years	Field	Miss Novelli & Mrs Harris	
Monday	Boys Football	Year 7	Field	Mr Foster	
	Netball	Year 9	Courts	Mrs Harris	
	Netball	Year 8	Courts	Mrs Harris	
Tuesday	Boys Football	Year 8, 9 &10	Field	Mr Harris, Mr Foster, Mr Minion	
	Netball	Year 10 & 11	Courts	Miss Novelli	
Wednesday	Volleyball	Year 11	Sports Hall	Mr Harris, Mr Foster, Mr Minion	
Thursday	Netball	Year 7	Courts	Mrs Dean	
TitulSudy	Basketball	Year 9 & 10	Sports Hall	Mr Harris	
Friday	No Clubs				

Please note: Fixtures/Interhouse events will take priority over training.

Poor weather conditions may also affect the running of extra curriculum clubs.

Exams will take place in the Sports Hall
so no clubs that use the Sports Hall location will run during the exam period.

#### Homework Support, Study & Catch-up Sessions

Homework club is for any students in the year group who would like to complete homework in a school computer room after school. Homework club will run from 3-4pm on the relevant day.

Year	Day	Time	Room	Staff Member
Year 7	Wednesday	3-4pm	C2	Mrs Stratton
Year 7 -11	Monday, Tuesday & Thursday	3-4pm	C2	Mrs Stratton

Subject	Year Group	Day	Time	Location	Staff Member
Music GCSE Drop-in	Year 10 & 11 Music Students	Monday	1.30-2pm	MD3	Miss Naylor
KS3 Maths	Year 7, 8 & 9	Monday	3-4pm	G9	Mr McEwan
3D Catch-up	KS4	Monday	3-4pm	A4	Mr Beevor
Hospitality & Catering Catch-up	KS4	Monday	3-4pm	A5	Miss Hagan
Art Catch-up	KS4	Tuesday	3-4pm	A1	Mrs Pearson
Business (invite only)	Year 10 & 11	Wednesday	1.20-2pm	C10	Business Staff
Maths Revision KS5	Year 12/13	Wednesday	12.20-2pm	C8	Mrs Coldwell
GCSE Further Maths	Year 10 & 11	Thursday	3-4pm	G9	Mr McEwan
MFL Homework Club	All Years	Thursday	3-4pm	G19	Miss Abbott
Maths Revision KS5	Year 12/13	Friday	1.20-2pm	C8	Mrs Coldwell

#### **Clubs & Activities Update**

Due to the popularity of netball in Year 8 and Year 9 Mrs Harris is running a Year 9 netball club on Monday after school and a Year 8 netball club on Tuesdays after school.

Please sign your child up to these clubs on SOCS if they would like to take part.

#### WGCH Local Schools Partnership newsletter - October 2025

The latest WGCH Local Schools Partnership newsletter is now available to download from our website, <a href="https://stanborough.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WGCH-Newsletter-Oct-2025.pdf">https://stanborough.herts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WGCH-Newsletter-Oct-2025.pdf</a>

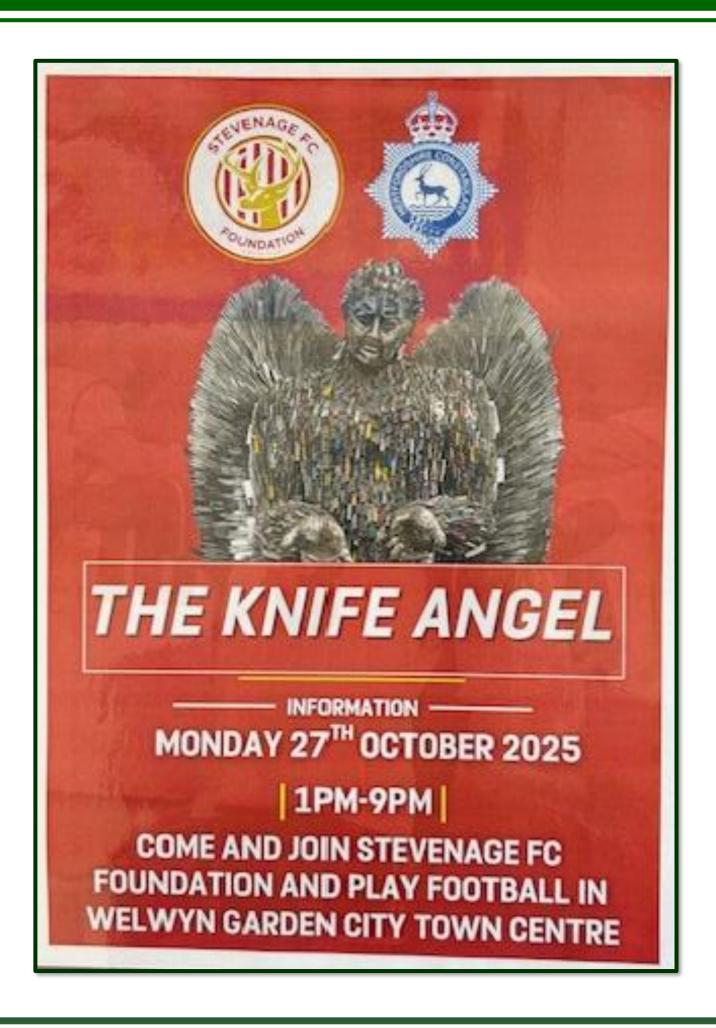












# What to do when...



#### ...your child is asking for their first phone

Use **UKSIC**'s advice page for things to consider:

www.saferinternet.org.uk/guide-andresource/parents-and-carers/phones

#### ...you're worried about who your child is talking to whilst gaming

Read our article to learn more about safer in-game chat:
<a href="https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat/">www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/in-game-chat/</a>

# ...your child wants to join social media

Use our article for what to consider: www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/is-my-child-ready-for-socialmedia/

Know more about how each social media platform works with **Internet Matters** guides:

www.internetmatters.org/advice/appsand-platforms/social-media/

#### ...you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online

Read our article for advice and guidance:

www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/lm-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/

#### ...you're worried your child might share a nude image, or already has

Watch our short films for advice: www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/nude-selfies-a-parents-guide/

Remember, under 18s can report nude images shared online to **Report Remove** for help to take it down:
<u>www.childline.org.uk/remove</u>

# ...you want to protect your child from online blackmail

Read our guidance for parents and carers on financially motivated sexual extortion:

www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/FMSE/

Share our online blackmail article for 11-18s with your young person: www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11\_18/letstalk-about/sexual-abuse/onlineblackmail/

#CEOPWTDW