THE STANBOROUGH TIMES

Edition 12: 5th December 2025

Message from the Headteacher – Mrs John

Our Rock and Pop event last week was a real showcase of the talent our students have. There were some wonderful performances and a special thank you goes to all our students who performed on stage and back stage, as well as the sound and light team. Thank you to all the staff involved to make sure the evening ran smoothly. We have enjoyed a very exciting day today and our catering team did a wonderful job preparing the Christmas lunch for us all! Thank you to Leeane and the team! The school was a buzz of Christmas jumpers and the donations for today's non-uniform day will go to The Red Cross. We're really counting down the weeks and days now until the end of term and yet we still have so much to do. A reminder of activities for next week which includes the Year 9 parents' evening and early close at 1.20pm for students, our House drama performances and the annual Yuletide Soiree which is organised by our Post 16 students (again proceeds from this event will be donated to The Red Cross). Details of these events, and more, are in this newsletter.

Headteacher's Commendations

Annabelle Winston and Amber Saunders, Yr.7 for taking part in the recent Ignition Dance Showcase at St Albans Arena.
Astrid Humphreys-Chung Yr.7 for competing at the recent London Regional Trampoline competition and achieving a new Personal Best score.
Jack Horton, Yr.7 for successfully competing in his first Rise Gym Excel Level 1 event at Gosling Sports Centre, earning 1st on Vault, 2nd on Floor and 3rd overall across all ages.
Farhan Abdulazeez-Usman, Yr.7 for having his robotics project chosen for recognition.
Eliza Lomas, Yr.8 for competing in the recent GKR Karate National Championship and achieving both Bronze and Silver Medals.
Sevda Karakashli, Yr.9 for attending an award ceremony with her Karate academy and winning 'Student of the Year'.
Kate Kirby, Yr.10 for outstanding support as a 'Young Leader' with a local Girl Guiding Group.
Esmee Bone, Yr.11 for being invited to her Primary School, St Johns to inspire younger students with a talk about her cycling journey.
Courtney Mngomba, Yr.12 for creating an excellent slide show for sixth form prefects to present to Year 11.

Quote of the week:

"Tolerance and compassion are qualities of fearless people."
Paulo Coelho

Wish you a restful weekend.
Mrs John

Headteacher Commendations

Forthcoming Events

8th – 12th December 2025
Week B

8th – 10th	Year 12/13 Criminology Exams
8th & 9th	House Drama Rehearsals
10th	House Drama Performances Early close for all students, 1.20pm Year 9 Parents' Evening, 2-6pm via video call
11th	House Drama Performances House Drama Evening Performance for Parents, 4.30-7.30pm
12th	Yuletide Soiree, 5-7.30pm

Safety Notice

Please ensure that your child's bike is equipped with working front and rear lights if they cycle to and from school. With the darker mornings and evenings, proper lighting is essential for their safety and visibility.

Early Finish – Wednesday 10th December

A reminder that school will close for all students at 1.20pm on Wednesday 10th December for the Year 9 parents' evening.

There will be no lunch service on this day.

Post 16 lessons will continue if the teacher is not involved in this event. Students will have been informed in advance by their teacher.

The booking system is open for Year 9 appointments. All appointments are via an online video call and slots can be booked up to midnight on Tuesday. For more information, please refer to the letter emailed home recently. Any queries should be directed to

parentsevening@stanborough.herts.sch.uk.

Vacancy

SEND Administrator

We are seeking to appoint a highly organised and efficient administrator to support the SENDCo and ensure the smooth running and efficiency of the school SEND faculty.

Closing date: 11th December 2025, 9am

Student Success

Well done to Alexander, 7BM, who achieved his Grade 1 level Acoustic Guitar last week.

Eliza, 8KK, competed in the GKR Karate National Championships in Sheffield last weekend and achieved a bronze medal for her kata and a silver medal for kumite in her age group. Well done, Eliza!

Sisters, Jenna, 11KK, Amelia,8KL and Sienna, 7BM, all took part on Saturday in their dance school's annual presentation evening and all three won awards!

Jenna won the modern cup, Amelia won the modern runner up award, and Sienna won the tap runner up award.

Over the weekend Evie, 8KK, Bethany, 8HM and Jessica, 8KL, took part in their dance schools presentation day show. Evie won the senior tap award and all the girls performed extremely well in their dances.

Dylan, 8BP, took part in a CPR training workshop last week, run by the East of England Ambulance service and learnt valuable lifesaving skills. Well done, Dylan, a great skill to have!

Community tree planting event

Dr Jolly, Eco School Leader, writes:

On Thursday 20th November, 27 students joined members of the Welwyn Garden City Rotary Club to extend the area planted with young trees beyond our boundary on Stanborough Road. The trees were provided through the Woodland Trust scheme to encourage tree planting in communities across the UK. We received valuable guidance and support from Maydencroft Ltd, a landscaping company, in the form of Dan and Adam. Maydencroft also supplied canes, guards and mulch to protect and nurture the young trees and essential tools to make the job easier. We planted around 350 trees over 3 hours with a welcome break of muffins, biscuits and drinks provided by the Rotary Club.

All the students enjoyed their experience, despite the cold weather, and worked enthusiastically in small groups to complete the task. As with last year's event, we also planted crocus corms for the Rotary Club's Purple for Polio campaign. We look forward to spotting the crocuses when they bloom and checking for new growth on the young trees in the Spring.

Esther W, 7BP, wrote:

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to do the tree planting experience. I found it a very rewarding morning and am looking forward to seeing them grow during my time at Stanborough."

The following week, the Nature & Eco Club, who meet after school on Tuesdays, planted some of the remaining trees on the school site and this week we have planted more of the crocuses. The students always enjoy being outdoors and doing something positive to improve biodiversity on the school site.

Destination Stanborough: The Big Reveal

Mrs Macdonald, Subject Leader: Geography, writes:

I can reveal that the location of this half term's 'Destination Stanborough' competition is..... **Lisbon!**

An explanation of the clues is included below. Congratulations to all pupils who entered, points will be awarded on Class Charts this weekend. Special mention must go to the following pupils who each guessed the correct location with thorough explanations within the first two weeks: Zoe Harrington (8BM), Edward Kane (9BM), Amy Macdonald (10KK), Max Holmes (8KK), Spoorthi Muddi (7BM), McKayla Dimgba (8KK).

Clue	Explanation
1. Built on 7 hills	Lisbon is built on **seven hills**, just like Rome.
2. Suspension Bridge	The 25 de Abril Bridge, connecting Lisbon to Almada, is an iconic suspension bridge known for it's striking resemblance to San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.
3. Atlantic explorers	Explorers once set sail from here to discover new worlds during the Age of Exploration.
4. Decorative tiles	A traditional blue-and-white tile (azulejo) decorates many of this city's walls
5. Rooster	A symbol of Portugal found in many of Lisbon's tourist shops
6. Sardines	During the summer months, the city comes alive with the scent of sardines being cooked over open flames.
7. Custard tarts	Lisbon is the birthplace of the famous 'Pasteis de Nata' desert
8. Yellow tram	Its famous yellow **trams** rumble up steep, narrow streets throughout Lisbon

Look out for the launch of the next 'Destination Stanborough' competition in the New Year!

House Drama 2025

An evening of performances from each of our four Houses, come and decide who you think gave the best performance!

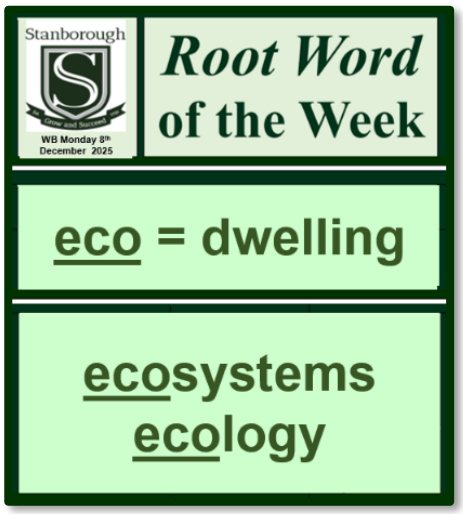
Art Competition

Students from all year groups are invited to submit a piece of their artwork for sale at the Yuletide Soiree!

Art work must be submitted by Tuesday 9th December for the chance of a prize!

Winter Musicale 2025

Join us for this year's Winter Musicale on Monday 15th December from 4.15pm for choir and individual performances, mince pies and juice.



Root Word of the Week
W/c 8th December 2025

Question of the Week

Mathematics

Mrs Sahjpall, KS3 Leader: Mathematics, writes:

MATHS QUESTION OF THE WEEK

SOLVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO EARN A GOLD AWARD

Deadline: 08.12.25

Submit your entry by email on Ssahjpall@stanborough.herts.sch.uk or on paper (Maths office)

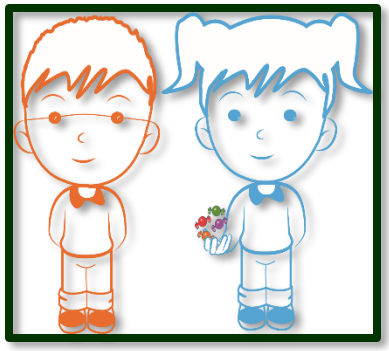
Write your full name and form group on your entry

Higher GCSE Question

f √12 – 27/√75 is given in the form √*a*/*b*, what are the values of *a* and *b*?

$$\sqrt{12} - \frac{27}{\sqrt{75}} = \frac{\sqrt{a}}{b}$$

Foundation GCSE Question



Samantha has a bag of sweets. She gives half of them to Steven.

Steven eats two and has four left.
How many sweets did Samantha have to begin with?

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/

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
	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
Thursday	Music Theory Club	All Years	MD3	Miss Naylor
	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
Monday	Chorus & School Production Rehearsals	Performers	3-4pm	MD1 / MD3	Miss Naylor, Mr Mollison, Mr Jones, Mrs Thaker
	House Dance Rehearsals	All Years	3-4.15pm	Gym	Miss Novelli
	3D Design Club	All Years	3-4pm	A4	Mr Beevor
Tuesday	Nature & Eco Club	All Years	3-4.15pm	Meet in S10	Dr Jolly
	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 Production Rehearsals	Performers	3-4pm	MD1	Miss Naylor, Mr Mollison, Mr Jones, Mrs Thaker
	ShowBand **(invite only)**	Invited Students	3-4.30pm		Miss Naylor & Mr Mollison
	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	C3	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
	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
Monday	Girls Football	All Years	Field	Miss Novelli & Mrs Harris
	Boys Football	Year 7	Field	Mr Foster
	Netball	Year 9	Courts	Mrs Harris
Tuesday	Netball	Year 8	Courts	Mrs Harris
	Boys Football	Year 8, 9 &10	Field	Mr Harris, Mr Foster, Mr Minion
Wednesday	Netball	Year 10 & 11	Courts	Miss Novelli
	Volleyball	Year 11	Sports Hall	Mr Harris, Mr Foster, Mr Minion
Thursday	Netball	Year 7	Courts	Mrs Dean
	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

Funded Parent Courses and Workshops

Please click here for all the information and booking details,

https://www.supportinglinks.co.uk/whatson.html

Courses

Courses: Phone 07512 709 556 to book

6-Weeks	Location	ID	Dates 2026	Day	Time
Talking Additional Needs	Online	797	6th Jan to 10th Feb	Tue	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Additional Needs	Online	796	3rd Feb to 17th Mar	Tue	9.45-11.15am
Talking Families	Online	799	8th Jan to 12th Feb	Thu	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Families	Online	798	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	9.45-11.15am
Talking Families	Online	800	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	8.00-9.30pm
Talking Anxiety in Families	Online	801	4th Feb to 18th Mar	Wed	9.45-11.30am
Talking Teens	Online	804	5th Jan to 9th Feb	Mon	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Teens	St Albans	802	4th Feb to 18th Mar	Wed	7.00-9.00pm
Talking Teens	Online	803	5th Feb to 19th Mar	Thu	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Anger in Teens	Online	805	6th Jan to 10th Feb	Tue	7.45-9.30pm
Talking Dads	Online	806	7th Jan to 11th Feb	Wed	7.45-9.15pm
Talking Dads	Online	807	2nd Feb to 16th Mar	Mon	7.45-9.15pm

Bitesize Workshops

Our Bitesize Workshops answer your common parenting questions.

These are interactive 1 hour sessions on Zoom with an opportunity to ask questions.

Book through Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/bitesize-parenting-free-for-parents-in-herts-3853843

Book a place

Recording available on request

Talking ASD & ADHD Workshops

Interactive, informative workshops on Zoom with an opportunity to talk questions.
Book through Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/talking-asd-adhd-free-for-parents-in-herts-1046969

Book a place

ASD & ADHD Online Workshops: Book through Eventbrite

1.75hr single sessions		ID	Date	Day	Time
Anxiety & Stress	New Date	822	14-Jan-26	Wed	9.30-11.15am
Responding to Anger		809	22-Jan-26	Thu	7.30-9.15pm
The Teenage Years		808	26-Jan-26	Mon	7.30-9.15pm
Siblings		811	24-Feb-26	Tue	7.30-9.15pm
Tech Use	New Content	810	24-Mar-26	Tue	9.30-11.15am

Recording available to all attendees and booked participants on request

Parent Governor Vacancy.

As a result of one of our governors is reaching the end of their term this Autumn, we are looking to appoint a new member to join the Stanborough School Governing Body.
We are seeking individuals with a passion for supporting the school in maintaining and continually improving its high standards of teaching and learning.

The role of the governing board
The school's governing board is responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance.
The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

The role of a parent governor
As a parent governor, you'll work with the board to make sure it effectively carries out the duties referred to above. You'll also play a vital role in bringing a parental perspective to the governing board, but you're not there to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body.
To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- The specific skills required to make sure the governing board delivers effective governance"

For more information on the work that Stanborough Governors do click here
If you are interested in becoming a Governor please contact the Vice Chair of Governors, Adam Wadley awadley@stanborough.herts.sch.uk and we will send you an information pack.

Deadline to apply is December 17th 2025 9am

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects staff to share this commitment. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS). The following policies are provided on the vacancies section of our website: Policy for Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment and Retention Policy.

Grow and Succeed

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