

Message from the Headteacher – Mrs John

Welcome back after the half term break. I hope you were all able to enjoy some rest and quality time with family and friends. Although this is a slightly shorter term, it is a crucial and very busy few weeks for us as we support our Year 11 and Year 13 students in the lead up to their public examinations in the summer term. Both year groups are currently undertaking their final round of mock exams and assessments as we approach Easter. These assessments play an important role in identifying strengths and areas for final development and we will continue to provide targeted support, guidance and encouragement to ensure every student feels confident and well prepared.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome a variety of professional women into school for our Women in Careers event with Year 9 students. As part of National Women's Day, and at a key time when Year 9 are making important decisions about their GCSE options, our guests spoke about their career journeys and answered students' questions in a lively "speed networking" format. Thanks go to our Careers Team for organising such an inspiring event. From previous years, we know that these sessions leave a lasting impression and help broaden students' aspirations and understanding of the opportunities available to them. We look forward to a productive and successful term ahead.

Forthcoming Events

2nd – 6th March,
Week A

2 nd – 6 th March	Year 11 Mock 2 Exams
2 nd – 20 th March	Year 13 Assessment Period
3 rd March	Alumni Talk Year 13 War of the Roses Conference
5 th March	Year 7 St Albans Abbey Trip
6 th March	Year 7 St Albans Abbey Trip

Quote of the week:

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change."

Wayne Dyer

Wish you a restful weekend.
Mrs John



Thank you

Thank you for ensuring students are no longer 'cutting through' the flats to get to school. The action on this has made a big impact on local residents, with whom we are keen to maintain a positive relationship.

Linked to this, please could parents be mindful when parking/waiting in the local area to pick up and drop off. Please don't park on double yellow lines, or in residents' private spaces, as this causes additional risk on the roads, and ill feeling with our neighbours.

Thanks in advance for your continued support

Stanborough School Alumni

We look forward to welcoming ex- student, Beth Makowski, back to Stanborough on Tuesday 3rd March. Beth will be speaking to students interested in a career in accountancy during a special assembly.

**Root Word
of the Week**
W/c 2nd
March 2026

Root Word of the Week
compos = to put together
composition compositional composite

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL ALUMNI



BETH MAKOWSKI

EX-STUDENT



Beth Makowski, a former Stanborough student, is currently an audit professional at EY and is completing a Level 7 apprenticeship in Accountancy and Taxation, working towards chartered accountant status. After finishing A Levels in mathematics, psychology and history at Stanborough in 2021, Beth graduated with a degree in psychology from Durham University in 2024.

Beth will be speaking to students interested in accountancy

Tuesday
3rd March 2026
8.35-9am

Clubs postponed due to mocks

Due to mock exams in the sports hall the following clubs will be paused for 2 weeks:

- Year 11 basketball (Lunchtime)
- Year 7 Basketball (Lunchtime and after school)
- Year 8 Basketball (Lunchtime and after school)
- Year 9 Basketball (Lunchtime)
- Year 10 Basketball (Lunchtime)
- All years Badminton (Lunchtime)
- Year 10 Volleyball (Lunchtime and after school)
- Year 11 Volleyball (Lunchtime and after school)

They will resume the week beginning 9th March.

Early Close for students – Thursday 26th March 2026

School will finish at 1.20pm for students on Thursday 26th March for the Year 10 Parents' Evening which runs from 2pm to 6pm.

Post 16 lesson will continue as normal. If the teacher is not involved in the parents' evening Post 16 teachers will inform their class about this in advance.

Please note, there will be no lunch service on this day.

Year 10 parents are asked to look out for an email coming early next week with details about the Year 10 parents' evening and booking appointments.



Student Success

Proud Thursday

Mr Persand, Deputy Headteacher, writes:

For Proud Thursday just before half term, we celebrated two brilliant achievements.

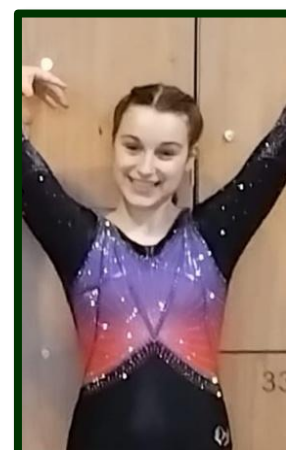
Himaksh, 7KK shared his Silver Award from swimming. This includes survival skills, rescue and multi-aquatic disciplines. A fantastic accomplishment that takes real commitment and confidence in the water. Well done, Himaksh.

We also heard from Yakira, 10BP, who made an excellent mac and cheese in her Hospitality and Catering lesson. She confidently talked us through the method and explained what makes it just right. Clear skills and clear thinking. Well done, Yakira.

A great reminder that success comes in many forms, from the swimming pool to the kitchen.



Well done, Leah, 9HC, who competed for her trampolining club. She finished 6th overall and has made the League. This means she will be going to Newcastle to represent her club.



School Production 2026 – School of Rock

Mr Jones, Subject Leader: Drama, writes:

Well, with this year's school production, the Music and Drama team pulled off the most ambitious piece of musical theatre it has ever attempted. Not only was there a superbly focused acting and singing cast, but all the accompanying music to this West-End style rock opera came from a live band. Not only that, but the live band consisted of Year 10 and 11 students! The incredible musical ability of the whole band impressed staff, students and parents alike – in fact, some parents thought it was a recording of the accompaniment from a West End show! This production was the ambitious concept of Miss Naylor, as Curriculum Leader of Music. Miss Naylor and Mr Mollison spent many hours directing and conducting the band so that they could perform with aplomb their polished rock musical accompaniment. Then came rehearsing cues with the actual cast – so even more work was required. The superbly adept members of the band were, on guitar: Vinnie Watson and George Carter, on 'keys': Walter Chan, on bass: Reuben Cook and, on drums: Harry Temple. The cast and band performed to sold-out houses on both nights, as well as at a matinee for local primary schools. Vashek Parisi, in his hectic final year at the school, took up the challenge of the leading role, and gave us his rock opera version of Jack Black's iconic character, Dewey Finn, originally from the smash-hit movie, *School of Rock*. This meant, of course, that he was more or less never off the stage; a real powerhouse of talent.



Many can remember the impact that that film version of *School of Rock* had when it first came out. There is, however, even more music in this stage version than there is in the original film. Vashek's musical ability is beyond doubt, but what struck audiences, and anyone who witnessed it, was his effortlessly naturalistic acting style; it really brought the character to life on the stage. Vashek also showed via his example and professional leadership what it meant to lead a company of performers. His approach, commitment and style were a credit to himself and the school. He was ably supported by an equally believable cast, all of whom impressed with their commitment to their roles – including all the minor parts. There are too many to name individually, but significant character roles were expertly played by Phoebe Spanoudakis (Rosalie Mullins: Horace Green's School Principal), Emma Shaw (Dewey's Nemesis, Patty, girlfriend of Ned), Jonah Cook, Mac Essex, Zachary Palin (in various roles), Rosie Wu (as the 'goody two shoes' Summer), as well as, Andreas Michael, Daisy Solomon (Tomika) , Jasper Robinson (Ned Schneebly) and Grace Saunderson (Ms Sheinkopf), to name but a few.



The show was very enthusiastically received, with a real tour de force from the cast for the final Friday night production. Discussing the production with our new Drama and Music technician (who helped assist Mr Mollison with Sound and Lighting), he pointed out that he was staggered by the high level of performance of music and drama in the show, especially for a school production. It should be said at this point, that none of this would have been possible without the musical commitment of the Curriculum Leader of Music, and conductor of the House Band, Miss Naylor, who, as Musical Director, really had the lion's share of the work!

Mention should also be made of the fantastic 'swing cast' who performed for the invited Primary schools. Helena Dunstan and Imara Fanning's primary school matinee performances stood out as really polished; both knew their lines backwards. Helena had real poise and 'practised stability' as the besieged Horace Green School Principal, and Imara Fanning presented Ned's Dewey-hating girlfriend as someone to be really reckoned with.



One of the most underrated and oftentimes forgotten aspects of school productions is the terrific work that goes on behind the scenes. I am aware that I need to pay tribute to an often-overlooked aspect of school productions: the behind-the-scenes set design work that is led by Mr Beevor and his helpers, Jimmy Dykes, Grace Sanderson, Robert Clayton and Nola Olson, who never seem to look for any recognition or tribute. Without their work the stage would look very different. They are responsible for 're-thinking' the old school flats (those set uprights that are painted, etc.). These flats are not without their critics, understandably, as they can be cumbersome and difficult to store for the rest of the year, but the magic that the design team work with those of four old wooden panels on wheels surely justifies the minor inconvenience of storage! Jimmy Dykes (Year 10) also takes on a stage management role that has various self-appointed tasks for the sake of 'verisimilitude', including, this year, making apple juice look like whisky – so believable was it, that it even worried some of the staff, incredibly!

Behind the scenes, especially during 'Show Week', we could not have got by without the additional help of the other half of the Drama Department, Mrs Thaker. Mrs Thaker managed to relentlessly finalise 'blocking' and staging concerns despite some having some imminent 'maternal challenges'.

Finally, we should mention Mr Mollison's 'SALT' team, whose nifty, fleet of foot, contributions at his instruction, even during the actual performances, saved the show from many a technical mishap.

All in all, this was an outstandingly ambitious production that, despite the challenges and the enormous amount of hard work that were required throughout the run, resulted in an absolute triumph for Stanborough School's Music and Drama Department.



Staff profile

Mrs A Cristia, Teaching Assistant

I have been working as a Teaching Assistant since 2018 and really enjoyed supporting students and teachers. My favourite subjects are English and Maths, however, while working at Stanborough School, I have also developed a passion for History and Business.

I am originally from Romania, where I have studied Law, Management and Human Resources at University of Bucharest, being awarded with a Bachelor Degree and Master Degree. In my birth country, I have been working in the Police Force for seven years.

I love Formula 1 and I support the Ferrari team.

My hobbies are gardening, knitting and cooking.

In my free time, I love to go to the gym for a workout.



Geography Competition: Destination Stanborough!

Mrs Macdonald, Subject Leader: Geography, writes:

Welcome to the latest instalment of 'Destination Stanborough'! Each week, two clues will be released via the Stanborough Times. These clues all link to **one particular city or landmark**, which could be anywhere in the world. There will be **8 clues in total**, and the answer will be revealed after all clues have been shared.

If you think you have solved the clues, email Mrs Macdonald, AMacdonald@stanborough.herts.sch.uk with your answer.

Points will be awarded at the end of the competition based on how many clues you need and how detailed your explanations of the clues are.

The first set of clues for this half term's destination are below, Good Luck!

Clue #1



Clue #2



Question of the Week

Mathematics

Mrs Sahjpall, KS3 Leader: Mathematics, writes:



π fx $\oplus \ominus$ $\otimes \ominus$ λ **MATHS QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

SOLVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO EARN A GOLD AWARD

Deadline: 04.03.26

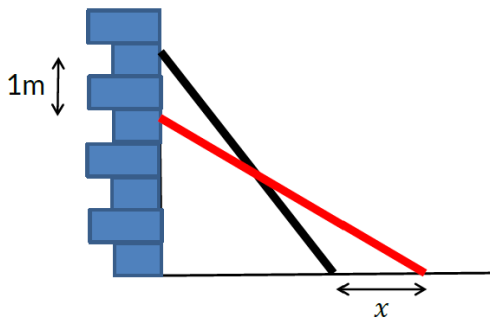
Submit your entry by email on Ssahjpall@stanborough.herts.sch.uk or on paper (Maths office)

Write your full name and form group on your entry

Higher GCSE Question

A 7 metre ladder rests against a wall.

The ladder reaches 5.5 metres up the wall.



The ladder is then moved so that it now reaches 1 metre less than last time.

How much further is the base of the ladder now from the wall? It is the distance marked x in the diagram?

Foundation GCSE Question

A local ice cream shop sells three flavours of ice cream: vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry.

The price of vanilla plus the price of chocolate equals £5.00

The price of chocolate plus the price of strawberry equals £6.50

The price of vanilla plus the price of strawberry equals £7.50

Can you determine the price of each flavour?



3D MATHS MODEL COMPETITION



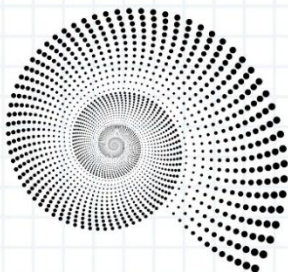
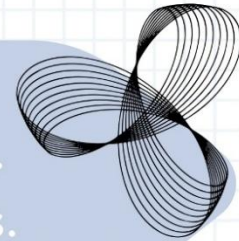
THE CHALLENGE:

Design and build a 3D mathematical model of any size using any materials.

Your model should show interesting mathematics in 3D and help people see how maths works.

GUIDELINES

- YOU CAN ENTER AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR AS A GROUP.
- ANY MATERIALS CAN BE USED.
- SUBMIT WITH A SHORT EXPLANATION OF THE MATHS.
- THE MODEL MUST BE SAFE TO DISPLAY AND THE WORK MUST BE YOUR OWN.



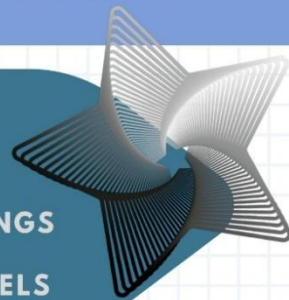
PRIZES

WINNING MODELS DISPLAYED
AWARDS FOR YOUR HOUSE
TROPHIES AWARDED IN ASSEMBLY



IDEAS

NATURE: FRACTALS, SPIRALS, HONEYCOMB PATTERNS
ARCHITECTURE: BRIDGES, DOMES, TRIANGLES IN BUILDINGS
SHAPES: PYRAMIDS, PRISMS, 3D NETS, TORUS
OPTICAL ILLUSIONS: VISUAL TRICKS, PERSPECTIVE MODELS
SEQUENCES: GOLDEN RATIO MODELS, 3D TESSELATIONS



SUBMIT BY 13/03/26 TO MRS SAHJPALL, G10

Clubs and Activities Spring Term 2026

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	Ensemble Room	Mr Router
	Guitar Club	All Years	MD2	Mr Acardo
Thursday	Music Theory Club	All Years	MD3	Miss Naylor
	LGBTQ+ Group	All Years	F6	Ms Butcher
	Script Writing Club	Year 9+	C4	Mrs Buist
	Art Club KS3	Year 7-9	A5	Miss Claydon & Miss Wypych Symonds
Friday	Music Technology Club	All Years	MD3	Mr Mollison
	3D Club	Years 7-9	A4	Mr Beevor

After School

Day	Club/Activity	Year Group	Time	Location	Member of staff responsible
Monday	Show Band	Invitation Only	3-4pm	MD1 / MD3	Mr Mollison
	Chorus	All Years	3-4pm	MD2	Miss Naylor
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	Show Band	Invitation Only	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
	3D Club KS3	Year 7-9	3-4pm	A4	Mr Beevor
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
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
Tuesday	Basketball	Year 7 & 8	Sports Hall	Mr Foster & Mr Minion
	Table Tennis	All Years	Gym	Mr Harris
Wednesday	Volleyball	Year 11	Sports Hall	Mr Harris, Mr Foster, Mr Minion
Thursday	Rugby	All Years	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
Maths	Year 7-10	Monday	3-4pm	G9	Mr McEwan
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
GCE Maths Revision KS5	Year 12/13	Friday	1.20-2pm	C8	Mrs Coldwell
GCSE Maths Revision KS4	Year 11	Friday	3-4pm	G9	Mr McEwan

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/>

