



NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Executive Principal



20th October 2022

Dear Stantonbury families,

Over the last two weeks I have been taking tours of prospective parents around the school ahead of the school applications deadline to apply for a school place in September 2023. During these tours the visitors had the chance to see the school in action by visiting lessons across the site. The feedback from our visitors was very positive and they were impressed by the calm, orderly and challenging lessons that they visited. Quite a few lessons that we visited were year 7 classes whose pupils have been at Stantonbury for just 7 weeks. It was great to see how well settled and engaged in their learning they were. If you have children in year 6 or know friends who have - please remember that meeting the application deadline of the 31st of October is essential. You must apply online for a place in year 7 next year even if you live in catchment, have older children already here or attend one of our feeder schools.

One of our main areas of focus this term is on **improving student attendance**. There is a very strong correlation between good attendance at school and student progress and success. We aim to have our school attendance at 95% as we know that this means that students will have the time, they need in lessons to learn everything about each subject. If a student falls below 95% attendance, then this means they are missing out on learning which eventually leads to them being less successful in their exams. The use of percentages can be a bit misleading, so it is often better to think of school days missed. The school year is 190 days long spread over 38 weeks so if your child had an attendance percentage of 90 then they will miss 19 days over the year - this is nearly 4 weeks! Missing a month of learning means your child is really missing out on learning. We know that sometimes illness causes absence but for most people this is just a few days in the year and wouldn't cause their attendance to fall below 95%. We also know that some children have ongoing health issues that can lead to lower attendance than we would wish but there are things we can do to support you.

You can see your child's attendance percentage on the **Go4Schools app** and if you have concerns about their attendance, please speak to the form tutor in the first instance. We are very keen to work with parents to improve attendance and certainly do not want them to miss out. If attendance becomes a concern, we will contact you to explain what we can do together to help keep your child in school. There is more information about attendance on our website, including how you should report absence to the school. <https://stantonbury-tove.org.uk/parents/attendance>

The first half of the Autumn term has been a successful one and on the whole, I am pleased with the progress that we are making as we rapidly improve Stantonbury School. My key message this term is to make every day count and for all students to aim to be in school every day so that no one misses out.

Resilience is one of our core values and there will be days during this next half term where we can draw on this to help improve school attendance.

I look forward to seeing everyone back in school after the half term break on Monday 31st October.

Kind regards

Jim Parker

Executive Principal