



# Stanchester Academy

27 January 2023

## Vision and Values

At the end of last year we asked parents, students and staff to contribute to a survey about the values we should represent at Stanchester. We had a huge response with almost 500 people taking part, so thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in the survey.

On Tuesday 24th January we followed up the survey with a workshop that included a cross section of students, parents and staff.

The workshop was led by an independent consultant and everyone was involved in discussions, votes and even some artwork!

Three core values came through, as well as a theme for the values moving forward. The next stage will be for the outcomes of the day to be developed by leaders at Stanchester and the Trust. More details of the new school values and vision will be announced soon. Watch this space!



## Congratulations!

Mrs Turner has been awarded her Level 5 Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools.

We're delighted that Stanchester students will benefit from her skills.



## Dates

- 30 January - Years 9 & 10 Musicals workshop
- 8 February - Year 9 Parents Evening
- 9 February - Women in Black Theatre Trip
- 13 - 17 February Half term Holiday

## NEU Strike - Wednesday 1 February

Years 10 & 11 will attend school as usual and will follow a timetable to support their learning in core subjects. School will be closed for years 7, 8 & 9 with work set via Teams for English, Maths and Science.

## GCSE Drama: from Creation Myths to 'Blood Brothers'

On Monday 16 January, GCSE Drama students were treated to an all-day 'Blood Brothers' workshop by Stage-Ed, led by former performers from the musical. The day's workshop gave students the chance to explore the characters, key scenes, scouse accent and helped to prepare them for Section B of the written exam. This is an invaluable revision tool for the students and lays the foundations to answering four questions from the paper, which looks at design features as well as performer demands.



Just over a week later on Wednesday 25 January, Year 11 Drama students had a day off timetable to rehearse and perform their Component 2, Devised examination piece. The stimulus was Ancient Creation Myths, and the students had the opportunity to either perform or be designers. These pieces are assessed by Mr Morgan and Mr Meadows, and then will be externally moderated by AQA. A huge thank you goes to Mr Meadows for his invaluable tech support, and to all students involved for their hard work. Students now need to complete the remainder of the NEA for this Component before welcoming in an AQA examiner for their scripted pieces on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Alongside this, Drama in Key Stage 3 has seen students working on their second Drama assessment of the year, with Year 7 working on Ghost Stories, Year 8 with Mask & Mine, and finally Year 9 have been pretending to be 7-year olds for their 'Blood Brothers' duologues. Mr Meadows has also invited Year 9 to audition for Jim Cartwright's 'Two', with rehearsals to get underway soon.

## Iceland Trip



We are very excited about the trip to Iceland which is being organised by the Geography department.

The trip leaves on **Friday 6 October 2023** for 4 days and 3 nights and will offer exciting opportunities and experiences designed to reinforce and enrich learning in a fun and stimulating environment.

It is open to students studying Geography in year 10 and those students who opt for Geography as a GCSE option in year 9.



The itinerary includes: -

- Golden Circle Tour including private guide
- Visit to Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant
- Bathing in the Secret Lagoon
- Visit to LAVA Volcano and Earthquake Centre in Hvolsvollur
- Evening trip to see the Northern Lights



The aim of the trip is to provide students with first-hand experience of the subject matter in the curriculum that wouldn't otherwise be possible within the normal classroom environment. In addition to this, the trip will also offer opportunities to experience a new culture, form friendships and create fantastic memories.

Please be aware that there are only a **limited number of places available** and places are being allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you would like your child to participate, please complete the online consent form - <https://forms.office.com/e/Q1bB9SgnBf>, with the payment for the first deposit (£200) made on ScoPay no later than **Wednesday 15 February**. Your child's place will not be guaranteed until these have been completed.



If you have any queries please contact Miss Burrow. [Jenna.Burrow@stanchester.co.uk](mailto:Jenna.Burrow@stanchester.co.uk)

## Supporting Stanchester's Development

Throughout this term we are being joined by curriculum specialists from the Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust, who will be looking in depth at how we teach each subject.

Along with the subject leader from Stanchester they'll observe lessons, review resources and speak to students to help us develop our curriculum.

They have already looked at Maths, and reported that the strengths of the curriculum include: -

- Behaviour in most lessons.
- Quality of modelling.
- Responsive teaching across teachers and classes.
- Good relationships and trust in the classes. Students are there to work and do engage in the work lessons well.
- Students had lots of positive things to say about Maths – for example, levels of in lesson feedback.
- In books, home learning feedback questions are used well.

## PE Taster Sessions

On **Thursday 9 February**, we will be running taster sessions for students considering taking PE as an option, with information on both the Sport Studies and GCSE PE course.

For more information students should talk to their PE teacher or email [melissa.clark@stanchester.co.uk](mailto:melissa.clark@stanchester.co.uk)

## Y9 Options Evening

On Wednesday 25 January we were really pleased to see so many Year 9 students and parents attend our Options Evening presentation.

As students consider their choices for KS4, we'll be adding some useful pages to the Stanchester Academy website.

From next week you'll be able to view a copy of the presentation from the evening, a digital copy of the Curriculum booklet, and short videos explaining the courses that are available.

