



Stanchester Academy

June 2018

Dear Parent

As we rapidly approach the end of another school year I thought it would be useful to share with you, in one letter, all the events taking place over the next six weeks to support you with your planning. I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the developments, particularly with regards to staffing, that form part of our plans towards September.

At Stanchester, education is about far more than GCSE outcomes and we pride ourselves on our focus on personal development through enrichment and the level of opportunities provided to all students. Although we focus on personal development throughout the year and through the whole curriculum our focused enrichment week enables us to explicitly support our students to understand the importance of their own development and their contribution to society as a whole.

You will have already worked with your child on selecting enrichment day activities with a focus on personal development – these take place during the week beginning Monday 2 July. On the following two days our students will be participating in community days where they will select activities which provide them with the opportunity to 'give back' to their community and the wider community. Students have been working throughout the year on understanding the importance of community and in playing their part as a young citizen. These two days on Wednesday 4 July and Thursday 5 July will enable them to benefit from experiencing an element of volunteering in a sector of interest to them. There will be no cost for these activities but your child will be bringing home a permission slip to ensure you have given your support to the activity they have chosen.

Over the same period our year 8 students will have their first opportunity to think seriously about their futures through the 'My Future Careers' day on Thursday 5 July. Our year 10 students will also be given the opportunity to consider their futures through the Yeovil College taster day taking place on Wednesday 4 July. Further information on both of these events will follow from your child's Phase Leader.

Our year 7 cohort have focused on personal development this year through the Adventure Service Challenge. On Wednesday 4 July they will be completing their expedition after school and an overnight camp ensuring they complete their qualification. Again, further information will follow. The climax of this first week in July will be our school festival on Friday 6 July followed by our first Community Summer Festival in the evening. During the day students will take part in a range of creative projects as well as our first sponsored event in many years. Creativity has often been considered as lacking in school's curriculums and whilst creative time at Stanchester has not been cut, the emphasis on the importance of creative subjects has increased. Creativity enables students to solve problems, use their imagination, to take risks, to be resilient and to persevere – incredibly important traits for all our children's futures. The Stanchester Festival of the Arts will enable our students to showcase their creativity and demonstrate the importance of this crucial area in their growth to becoming exceptional young adults. In particular our year 7 students will be exhibiting



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their work from this terms theme 'The Island' and this will form the final parent event of the year for year 7 parents.

The sponsored walk / run event will enable all students to contribute to school as a member of its community, with our student voice fully involved in identifying areas of need across the school for funding raised.

The Stanchester Community Festival on the evening of Friday 6 July is our first full fund raising event for several years. We have acts from across the West Country performing along with craft stands, children's play equipment and food and drink stalls. Raising funds through events such as this is crucial to enable us to provide the educational environment our children thrive in, but it also provides our community with a fantastic opportunity to come together, to meet new people and to celebrate the arts. We hope to see as many of you as possible supporting this event. Tickets are available from the school office at just £5 for adults and £2.50 for children aged 16 and under.

As you will know your children are currently sitting their end of year exams. This too is an important aspect of their development, not only to ensure they understand their progress to date and the areas they need to improve on but also to help them gain familiarity of the exam process which will be a part of all their futures. During the final two weeks of the term from Monday 9 July until Friday 20 July our students will start their September timetable. This early switch will enable their new teacher to provide feedback from their exams, close any gaps in their learning and ensure they have all the pre-learning they need to start the new academic year as proactively as possible. Research has shown that typically children lose three months of learning over the summer but this new approach will ensure children are focused on the new year early and fully prepared as opposed to the old adage of 'winding down'.

Joining us in July will be some of our new staff. As our Academy grows and to ensure we continue to provide the standard of learning we are very proud of with good class ratios and strong leadership we have made a number of excellent appointments for September. In maths Mr Weymouth and Miss Small, both superb newly qualified teachers, will be taking up full time positions. In English the team will be further strengthened by Mrs Blatch and Miss Wells, both within the school currently but taking permanent posts with us. In humanities we recently welcomed Miss Burrow and from September this very strong team will be joined by Mr Gassick, a history specialist. In the arts Mr Meadows will be returning to the school as a newly qualified teacher and in Modern Foreign Languages we welcome Mr Woollard. I know you will join us in welcoming these new members of the teaching team and will look forward to sharing your child's journey with them.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support this year, I look forward to seeing you at our Community Summer Festival but in the meantime if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Joynes
Principal