



STANGROUND ACADEMY

Executive Principal: Mr M Van Lier
Head of Academy: Mrs A Joannou

Peterborough Road, Peterborough, PE7 3BY

Tel: 01733 821430

email: enquiries@stangroundacademy.org

website: www.stangroundacademy.org

 @StangroundAcad  Stanground Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers

Following a successful start to 2026 in Post-16, we would like to share with you some important reminders regarding our behaviour and expectations.

Firstly, we would like to congratulate students both in Year 12 and 13 for the hard work since returning in September. Attendance for the first half term in the sixth form was above 96%. This is a real credit to the students. National statistics continue to show a direct correlation between high attendance and high achievement. We have also had a lot of positive comments about the student's attitude to learning – this is something we would like to see continue! All sixth form teachers and staff are working hard to deliver our vision to provide an education in an environment where students thrive.

Today, we have introduced a new approach to further support students with their independent study. Year 13 students have been given an Independent Learning Planner, in which they are expected to record independent learning tasks for completion outside the classroom, along with helpful details and deadlines. Using the planner will encourage positive study habits and help students stay organised. It will also give teachers and senior leaders a clear picture of how students are progressing, allowing them to offer support where needed and recognise achievements. By using the planners consistently, we can strengthen communication and ensure every student feels equipped to succeed.

After receiving many comments through student voice, we are focusing on ensuring that all students have access to a silent space for independent study. From now on, all Year 13 study sessions will take place in The Forum, our dedicated silent study area. This space is supervised by a member of staff, on hand to offer guidance and support, but also to ensure the students' time is being used for studying. Supervising staff can direct students to resources such as past papers, exam questions, or knowledge organisers which have been collated by sixth form teachers. By doing this we aim to provide a supportive environment where students can concentrate, feel confident in their progress, and make the most of their study time.

It's important to note that all subject teachers provide independent learning tasks either on Teams or as paper handouts for students to complete in their own study time which should now be recorded in their study planners. Each Monday, your child's tutor will look through their study planner with them to reflect on the previous week and to discuss whether certain subjects may need more focused time. We encourage you to take a look through your child's

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folders and Independent Study Planner as well. This can help you gain a clearer picture of the assignments being set and the learning objectives they are working towards. We now have a range of interventions in place for Post-16 students throughout the week. These include sessions before and after school, during tutor time, and within study periods. In addition, there will be further opportunities coming up, such as Saturday classes and Easter revision sessions.

All Year 13 students will also take part in Walking Talking Conferences before the Easter break. Following strong feedback through student voice, these sessions will focus specifically on exam technique and how to structure answers effectively, particularly for the longer, higher-mark questions in each subject. Our aim is to help students feel more confident and well-prepared as they move into the exam season.

All the initiatives mentioned above have been shaped through ongoing conversations with your child's teachers and by listening carefully to student voice. Each measure is designed to offer support, encouragement, and structure to help students achieve the best set of results they can - while also recognising the importance of their overall wellbeing.

Finally, we know how demanding this stage of Year 13 can feel, so as well as focusing on academic progress, we are committed to looking after students' mental health. Our aim is to ensure they feel supported, balanced, and confident as they move through the exam period. All our Year 13 students are working incredibly hard, and we are genuinely proud of their positive attitude and dedication. We will continue to guide and encourage them through this final stretch so they can confidently move on to the next pathway of their choice.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Firth & Mrs R Gibbons