

27 August 2026

A message from our Head of Academy - a look back and a look ahead

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your children are well and enjoying the summer break.

As my team and I prepare for the start of another exciting academic year, following yet another year of excellent GCSE and A-level results, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on some of our highlights from 2025/26 and share important information about the year ahead.

This is a longer letter than usual, as it contains important updates and links to key information and policies that may be relevant to your child and family. I encourage you to read the sections most applicable to you and keep this communication for future reference throughout the academic year.

2025/26 highlights

Outcomes

A huge congratulations to our outgoing Year 13 and Year 11 students, who achieved our best-ever A-level and GCSE results respectively. We are incredibly proud of both cohorts and wish our post-18 students every success as they move on to university, apprenticeships and employment.

We are also delighted to welcome back so many of our Year 11 students who have chosen to continue their studies with us in post-16. This is a testament to the strength of our academy culture, the quality of our provision and the achievements of our students. We are proud to see increasing numbers of families choosing Stanground Academy across all year groups.

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Carnival Week

What an incredible week! Students and staff had a fantastic time celebrating together.

Feedback from students, staff and families was overwhelmingly positive. Culture Day provided a vibrant celebration of the diverse cultures within our community, with music, dance and opportunities to learn from one another. On Trip Day, more than 900 students participated in visits across England, representing our highest level of participation to date.

The week concluded with Carnival Day, where the fairground attractions, inflatables, slip-and-slide activities, silent disco and other experiences proved hugely popular. We are already planning for next year and are determined to make Carnival Week even bigger and better.

Hear Me, Help Me (HMHM)

Our Hear me, Help Me, student and parent safeguarding reporting system continues to be used sensitively and responsibly. Our pastoral and safeguarding teams respond to each referral within 24 hours of submission and where appropriate, seek external advice and support from other agencies as appropriate. We will continue to remind students in September of this facility, which can be access on our website or the link below:

[Stanground Academy - Hear Me, Help Me](#)

Rewards

Our rewards programme continues to go from strength to strength. Last year, we awarded more than **500,000 Aspire Points** to students in recognition of their hard work, effort, dedication and commitment to academy life.

Students redeemed these points through our rewards store for a wide range of items and experiences, including educational equipment, sports equipment, non-uniform day wristbands, queue-jump passes, cinema experiences and seasonal gifts. In total, almost **20,000 rewards** were claimed during the year.

Our Academy Colours programme is now firmly embedded within academy life. More than 50 students achieved Full Colours status and proudly wear their colours tie in recognition of exceptional achievement across our four pillars: **Values, Academic, Creative and Sport**.

This programme will continue to celebrate and recognise outstanding achievements both within the academy and in the wider community.

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2026/27 – The year ahead

Term Dates & our school day

Our term dates for this academic year can be found on our website, link below:

[Stanground Academy - Term Dates](#)

The timings for our new school days are below:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Session	Times
Tutor	8:35 – 9:00
Period 1	9:00 – 10:00
Period 2	10:00 – 11:00
Break	11:00 – 11:20
Period 3	11:20 – 12:20
Period 4	12:20 – 13:20
Lunch	13:20 – 13:55
Period 5	13:55 – 14:55

Thursday

One hour of compulsory enrichment/
intervention for all students

Session	Times
Tutor	8:35 – 8:45
Period 1	8:45 – 9:45
Break 1	9:45 – 10:00
Period 2	10:00 – 11:00
Period 3	11:00 – 12:00
Lunch	12:00 – 12:30
Period 4	12:30 – 13:30
Period 5	13:30 – 14:30
Break 2	14:30 – 14:45
Enrichment/ Intervention	14:45 – 15:45

Year 7, 12 and 13 only return on **Wednesday 2 September 2026**. Mrs Rayner, Head of Year 7 and Mr Firth, Post 16 Manager, have written separately to these year groups with specific information including start times and entrances. The day ends at 2:55pm for Year 7 (standard closing time) and post-16 students will be dismissed by Mr Firth after all key information sharing and gathering has been completed.

All year groups return at 8:30am on Thursday 3 September 2026 (school closes at 3:45pm on this day). All gates will be open for ‘business as usual’. Students should go straight to their tutor rooms for AM registration. Form tutors will welcome students back, share key information about the plans for the day, including assemblies and answer any queries that may have arisen over the break. Students will follow the majority of their new timetables on this day (which will be distributed) with slight variations to accommodate key year group gatherings and information sharing.

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Uniform expectations & equipment for learning

All students are expected to return to school in September wearing **full academy uniform**. Please note that summer uniform is no longer permitted.

Our uniform standards, expectations and equipment requirements can be found on our website via the link below. We ask that all students arrive fully equipped and ready to learn every day. Please note that all students are expected to bring a scientific calculator to school each day.

Uniform and equipment information can be found here:

[Stanground Academy - Uniform & Equipment](#)

Further details can also be found on Page 5 & 6 of the Academy Behaviour Policy.

[Pupil behaviour & Inclusion Policy](#)

New Tutor Information Evening, Parent Information Evenings/Year 9 Options Evening

We are very proud of the strong collaboration we have with you, our parents and carers. We are always keen for you to come into our academy and meet with your child's teachers and support staff and discuss progress and areas for development across your child's curriculum. All information evenings will remain face to face as we are big believers in the power of human relationships. Important dates for your child's Parent Information Evening, new Tutor information Evening for all year groups (further information will be shared in due course), and open evening events can be found on our website, link below:

[Stanground Academy - Parents' Information Evening](#)

Aspire Awards Evening

We are excited to launch our first ever academy Aspire Awards Evening, where we will be celebrating the incredible achievements of a number of students across Year 7 to 13. Students who have been nominated for awards by staff have already received invitations for themselves and two guests to attend this event. We look forward to sharing photos with you and our community and wish all nominees the very best of luck for the evening.

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Enrichment Programme

Our whole academy enrichment programme starts in earnest on our return. Students have now picked their electives, and we are ready to have fun and strengthen our culture of belonging, providing opportunities and experiences beyond the academic curriculum. Enrichment hour is compulsory for all students, across Year 7 to 13 and will take place on Thursdays from 2:45pm to 3:45pm. The first session on Thursday 3rd September will be led by Mr Needham, Senior Assistant Principal, who will update all students on the plans and structure of this hour beyond the first week. A reminder that school now finishes at 3:45pm on Thursdays unless published otherwise.

The Enrichment Curriculum information packs for each year group can be found by following the links below:

Year 7 – 10

[Enrichment Programme Booklet Year 7-10 2026](#)

Year 11

[Year 11 Intervention Enrichment Programme Booklet](#)

Year 12 & 13

[P-16 Enrichment Programme Booklet](#)

New Mobile Phone Policy

In line with new government guidance, our mobile phone and digital devices use policy has been updated. Whilst we do not have a significant issue with mobile phone/digital devices use across the academy, the changes are necessary in order to be compliant with national guidelines and we do support this. Students will be fully briefed on these changes, and we will robustly uphold these standards and expectations, for the safety of all of our school community. The new mobile phone policy can be found here:

[Stanground Academy - Academy Policies](#)

[Mobile Phone Policy 2026-27](#)

Classroom routines, home learning and expectations

Teaching and learning remain our core business. We want every student to thrive and achieve their potential and leave us with a strong set of outcomes at the end of year 11 and/or year 13, that open doors for their future endeavours. Classroom routines and expectations are crucial to accomplishing this and our expectations will be shared with all students on their return to school. Our teaching and learning framework has been updated and it remains the case that students will be expected to engage positively in lessons, with staff and peers, and focus on producing high-quality class-based work. There will be a greater emphasis on presentation, spelling, punctuation and grammar, and a requirement for students to work to the best of their

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ability and engage with home learning. Research consistently shows that effective engagement with home learning has a positive impact on student outcomes and future life chances.

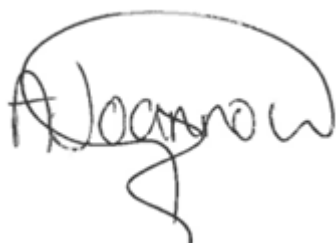
In addition, new assessment folders will be issued to all students across all subjects. These will become an invaluable revision resource during our "Six Weeks to Success" assessment preparation programme. Our teaching and support staff will continue to support, encourage and challenge every student to achieve their personal best.

As we prepare to begin another exciting academic year, I would like to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. The success of Stanground Academy is built upon the strong relationships between our staff, students, parents and carers, and we are incredibly grateful for the role you play in supporting your child's education.

We are ambitious for every young person in our care and remain committed to ensuring that every student feels safe, valued, challenged and inspired to succeed. We look forward to welcoming students back in September and to working together to make 2026/27 another exceptional year for our academy community.

Until then, I wish you and your family a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved remainder of the summer break.

Kind regards



Andry Joannou
Head of Academy

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