



22 May 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

We are living in very challenging times at present and we hope that you are finding the work provided for your child helpful. All of our staff are continuing to work from home and engage with students to support them in these unprecedented times to make the process of home-schooling as simple as possible.

Although we find ourselves in unique times, we wanted to let you know that we are continuing to work hard behind the scenes and have some exciting changes taking place at Stanground Academy. Students will be placed in new pastoral Houses from September 2020, this will enable them to interact more readily with a variety of different ages and, in doing so, have wider friendships. There has been significant educational research into the benefits of moving to a vertical tutoring House system. This research has demonstrated a number of positive benefits including improved examination results as well as helping to foster a positive culture and improved whole school experience for the students. This change will see the creation of five Houses. Each of these Houses will be linked to an academic faculty within the Academy. The current Heads of Year and Deputy Heads of Year will become Heads of House and Deputy Heads of House and each of the five Houses will have an Assistant Principal to support them. The names of the Houses will also have a link to a person of substance from that particular academic area, in addition, each House will be linked to a charity to support the development of the wider individual. Details of which House your child will be allocated, will be communicated before students return to the Academy and also house areas will be visible on your child's timetable when they return.

We would also like to take this opportunity to update you with some more exciting news regarding the Academy uniform. From September 2020, we will be making some changes to the uniform. Students currently in Years 7 and 8 will need a Stanground Academy Blazer. The Blazer will provide a source of pride for our students and enable them to display the various badges of their achievements. The quality of the Blazer also means that it will keep students warm during the winter months and also offer pockets for pens. The Blazer will be optional for students currently in years 9 and 10 (moving up to Years 10 and 11 in September), but they will need to wear the Academy's black jumper along with all current expectations. We have made a conscious decision to try to keep costs for parents to a minimum.

Students currently in Year 6 and joining the Academy in Year 7 in September 2020, will also wear the Academy Blazer and, over the next two years, all students (Years 7-11) will be required to wear the Academy Blazer. In addition, the Academy is offering the option for parents to purchase a black jumper for all students to wear under the Blazer, this item is not compulsory. We would like to be very clear that from September 2020 students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be expected to wear the new Academy Blazer, students in Years 10 and 11 will be in an Academy black jumper but may also choose to wear the Academy Blazer if they choose to do so.

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As part of the new House system, we are delighted to be able to announce that the Academy will provide ties for all students. The new ties will be in the new House colours, this cost will be covered by the Academy and parents will not be expected to purchase a new tie for students.

We are very mindful of the impact of cost on parents and carers for school uniform, which is why we are also delighted to announce that we have moved to a local uniform supplier. We have taken on board feedback from parents and feel that by using a local supplier the process of purchasing uniform will be much more enjoyable and simple.

The supplier is Chroma Sports and they are based in Bretton, Peterborough. Working together with Chroma Sports has meant that we have been able to source the best quality uniform at the lowest prices. You will also receive a letter directly from Chroma Sports outlining their options of how to purchase uniform. We have worked extremely hard with Chroma Sports to bring the price of uniform down to try and make it as cost effective as possible. At the Academy, we are mindful to ensure the uniform and our choice of requirements provide the best possible value for money. It is for this reason that we do not have school specific shirts, school trousers or school skirts. A number of other schools within the City do follow this approach but we have made the clear decision not to follow this lead. The above mentioned items can also be purchased at Chroma Sports but also at any retailer selling school uniform. We believe this approach will ensure the best value for our parents, whilst the new Blazer and House tie will provide a source of pride for our students.

We would just like to finish by reassuring parents and carers that we are all going through this very trying time together. We do appreciate the difficulties it has presented with home-schooling students. We are working with our teachers to provide the curriculum your children will experience from September 2020, while continuing to provide school work and guidance through to the end of the summer term.

Additionally, we have a wide variety of support in place at the Academy from a dedicated SEND team, catch-up provisions, Young People's Counselling Service, mentoring and passionate pastoral teams. These are just some of the resources at our disposal and available via our website: www.stangroundacademy.org. We will do everything in our power to ensure your child continues to receive the best educational experience at Stanground Academy and not disadvantaged in anyway as a result of these unprecedented events.

Yours faithfully

Mr K Ainslie
Deputy Principal

