



STANGROUND ACADEMY

19 December 2017

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PA to the Principal: Mrs P Poli

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Dear Parent/ Carer

I write to you at the end of what has been another busy term for the Stanground Academy. Work is well underway with our year 11 and sixth form students to ensure they are prepared fully for the exams they will take next year. We have continued our focus of providing a high-quality experience for our students and we continue on our journey, working together, to create the outstanding Academy that we can and will be.

It has been a pleasure to see many of you at our events this term, including our celebration evenings, parents' evenings and the year 10 and 11 promoting success evenings. We also had a very successful Christmas variety show last week, with many of our students showing off their talents by giving some excellent performances.

We continue to update our followers of upcoming events via Twitter @StangroundAcad and we use Groupcall Messenger to send out letters and absence notifications. If you do change your contact details or email address, please contact us to ensure we can update our records.

Following on from our success last year, a number of students have had poems published, and a special mention must go to Alex Ubakanma in year 8 who has successfully had two articles published. A tremendous achievement and my thanks to Mrs Martins De Abreu for coordinating this.

In November Alex Foreman, Elizabeth Dewdney, Krisha Chauhan and Anisha Anandaraj from year 7 and Ceri Hayes, Mia Hope, Isabelle Pallister and Tommy Neale from year 8 took part in the Oundle Mathematics Enrichment Conference where they sat in lectures and took part in a competition. The students thought they were at Hogwarts as the day was held in the Great Hall at Oundle School. The competition was intense and used some very high-level maths. Both year 7 and 8 had a great time and came a very respectable fourth in the competition.

A team of 28 young translators and English as an additional language (EAL) buddies who speak a total of nine different foreign languages have been assisting other Stanground Academy students, parents and staff. These inspirational young leaders, who wear purple 'Young Translator' and yellow 'EAL Buddy' badges on their uniforms, are on hand to act as buddies for students who have just started at school and do not speak English as their first language.

They assist with support, interpreting and translation around the school. The young translators and EAL buddies have also been working on a range of projects including the European Week of Languages and Christmas Around the World Project. The scheme equips them with new skills they may use in their future professional career. This new opportunity complements the range of leadership activities offered at the Stanground Academy. These include: sports leaders, sixth-form leaders and the Academy student council."



A number of students, including all of year 7, had the chance to spend some time with an ex-student, Matt Bold last week. Since leaving the Academy, Matt has followed his chosen career path, creating opportunities for himself and is now a successful member of the Williams Formula 1 pit crew. Students were fascinated by his route into an extremely competitive career and how his beginnings at Stanground helped him. My thanks to Matt for giving up his time to deliver such a superbly informative,

inspirational and interactive session to our students.

Last week students who were successfully elected as members of the student council and the government and politics students were given the very exciting opportunity to take part in a school trip to the Houses of Parliament in London. Students and staff commented on the invaluable experience they had as it enabled them to broaden their understanding of democracy and the role of parliament.



The student council, ably led by Head Students Megan Bedford and Kayleigh Archer, have used their leadership roles to good effect, running anti-bullying assemblies and instigating several fundraising events and non-uniform days for various charities. Indeed, this month the sixth form students have decided to reverse their advent calendars with all proceeds going to the Peterborough soup kitchen.

Students at the Stanground Academy in year 7, 8 and 9 religious education lessons have had a very exciting opportunity this term. They have been learning about Christian beliefs and famous public figures such as Martin Luther King and Malala Yousafza in an interactive learning space. They were given the opportunity to learn about themes such as forgiveness, fear and rejection in a purpose-built trailer featuring touch-screen tablet computers.



Mrs Tymoczko described the session as being 'invaluable.'

Mr Grassby said that 'students have responded positively and with enthusiasm. There has been a real buzz about it and everyone I asked said that they enjoyed it. Some really liked the scenarios and thinking about the themes in their own lives.'

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In addition to events such as the year 8 pool party, we have also continued with our hot chocolate and doughnut rewards at the end of each half term to celebrate the achievements and positive progress checks of our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a safe break over this festive period and look forward to welcoming all students back to the Academy on Thursday 4 January at 8.35am.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Scarrott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J' and 'S'.

Mr J Scarrott
Principal