



Stanborough School Newsletter

10/07/2015

ACTIONS NOT WORDS

ISSUE 2

The Term In Summary

by L. Dixon

Dear School Community,

Can you believe that we made it to the end of another academic year? I know that I can't! This year has gone by too quickly and I feel like we need to pause and acknowledge all the hard work that has been put into the year. As a school we have worked on several projects throughout the term, such as:

- Building critical thinking
- A* - A Display Boards
- Improving the school accessibility to all groups
- Improving the quality and variety of the meals provided

Staff Appreciation Day

Our first Friday assembly back, for the summer term, was by far one of our favourites for the year. The students surprised the staff with appreciation certificates, chocolates and presents, as part of our annual Staff Appreciation Day. For the present, each staff member received one of several small books about health and well-being. I, myself, received a book titled, 'Healing Hearts – Restoring Minds', that I really enjoyed reading. (Staff appreciation day was on the 24th April).

Year 10 Work Experience

In the second week back, the school felt a little sombre without the Year 10's, as they were away doing their Work Experience. Throughout the week, teachers took turns in visiting the Year 10s, to see how they were coping and to talk to employers about their progress. The overwhelming response was that our students were outstanding and hard working.

I want to take this time to pause and applaud the Year 10s for all their hard work. I also want to applaud them for the amazing job they did in representing our school. Lastly, I also want to take the time to wish them all the best as they enter their final GCSE year.

Year 11 Study Leave

We want to take time to acknowledge our 2015 graduating class. May 5th marked the last day that our current Year 11's attended full time classes. Their last day included an assembly that was lovingly prepared by Mr Nalli and Mr Amo-Adjei. The assembly was a tribute that followed the Year 11s through their time, here at Stanborough. The assembly was also filled with much sorrow, as we bid them farewell and expressed our best wishes for their future endeavours. It was hard for the school community to see

them go, but it was important for us to allow them time to study for the GCSE exams. I hope that they used the allotted time wisely and we look forward to some good results on Thursday 20th August 2015.

PTA Day of Fellowship

This term, we also hosted our annual PTA Day of Fellowship. It was well attended by many of our current staff and students (along with their parents), as well as a few of our past staff and students. My highlight for the day was by far the message for the day, and seeing how our students reacted to it. We were also blessed by outstanding musical performances! I already cannot wait for next year, and I hope you will all join us for this joyous event!

Japan Trip

As part of the culture enrichment programme this term, we sent 16 students and 4 staff members to Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin - our sister school in Japan. Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin is an Adventist school in the Hiroshima prefecture. During the two week trip, staff and students enjoyed many new cultural experiences, as well as learning about Hiroshima's history and language.

Garden Party

Earlier this year, we decided that we would host our second ever Classical Concert and Garden Party. Though we had a few hiccups along the way, the day was a tremendous success. In the end we raised over £700, and

all the profit will go towards our School's music programme that we wish to expand next year. This programme will aim to teach each KS3 student a musical instrument. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success!

Final Words

As the year draws to a close, I would again like to thank everyone who has contributed to making this year as memorable as it has been. The staff in particular encouraged me this year with their hard work, sacrifices made and their indomitable spirit, and for that I would like to say a big thank you. Our students this year also demonstrated great resilience in various challenging situations, throughout the year. As a school, we have had so many wonderful events that I was not able to cover due to space, that is why we are once again producing a school magazine for 2014 -2015. Please keep an eye out for it at speech night. In addition to our school magazine, we have a few other projects planned for 2015-2016, so watch this space.

Lastly, I hope you all have a wonderful summer! Enjoy the sun and stay safe!

SAM Learning Review

by T. Mahjub

Stanborough recently installed a new online education service called SAM Learning. SAM Learning supports personalised learning and has played a key role in aiming to help students in their academic work. It aims to do this by providing content that allows students to experience test like questions to prepare for our real exams. Content on the site is written by examiners and teachers, for all National Curriculum subject areas for Key Stage 3 and GCSE.

I have found that SAM Learning is encouraging students to take a proactive approach to self-learning. Students usually have a laid back attitude when it comes to homework. However, SAM Learning has had a strong positive 'vibe' in ensuring that students are up to date with their schoolwork as well as homework. The benefits of Sam Learning are really felt with consistent use. SAM Learning claims that spending approximately 10 hours over the period of a fortnight can genuinely improve knowledge, particularly if you are struggling with that

specific subject. However, some students have seen an improvement within a shorter time frame. For example, Tara (Year 10), who is in her first year of her GCSE course, stated, "Even though it isn't the old-fashioned pen and paper, it really strengthens your foundation in that particular subject - even 15 minutes makes a difference."

SAM Learning makes it easier for teachers to set homework, and the summary reports from SAM Learning reduce the problem of chasing homework. Moreover, the reports are a very useful indicator to teachers, on how a student is performing. No wonder our teachers are using it so much! As this review from Hilda in Year 9 indicates, "Having SAM Learning has really helped me to build up strategies in answering questions, I find it very useful that everything is notified, all the homework is there and even though teachers can get a bit overexcited about setting homework, I feel like it'll benefit us very much."

What I personally love about SAM Learning is the helpful hints that constantly appear when I am struggling with a question, guiding me right through the activity. It is normal to feel that the work may be quite challenging or complex; nevertheless activities are broken down into clearly explained steps, making difficult steps simple! This is also one of Jazzmine's (Year 9) favourite features as she said, "SAM Learning is so supportive in terms of helping you through the tasks, and I really like this factor on SAM Learning."

Other useful features are that SAM Learning also gives encouraging comments to do better in the next task, as well as allowing you to redo the task as many times as you like. This is great, as it allows you to go back and check the incorrect answers and correct them. These feature and the whole programme makes the students learning feel much more personalised as Muskah in Year 7 stated, "What I enjoy most about SAM Learning is that it is different to other learning websites, you get your own account and it shows your progress as an individual."

SAM Learning has had a strong and constructive impact with regard to our learning; I can most definitely say that it has made my homework a whole lot more fun. It is a practical, productive and progressive way to study. I encourage you to spend at least 15 minutes every day on SAM Learning.

International Night

by H. Antwi

International Night was an amazing event, which showcased different countries and cultures represented in the school. There were a large variety of dances, songs, performances, foods, decorations and costumes that demonstrated the culturally rich atmosphere of the school. For me, it was a chance to learn new things and socialise with different people from around the world.

While there were many good performances, I personally think that the best performance was the international group from Russia and their fantastic musical item that they played with spoons. Not only was the performance great, but their costumes really caught my eye. I found their performance very unique. Their performance will be something that I will never forget, as it gave me an insight into the Russian culture and their entertainment.



The decorations that were set up around the hall were also very interesting and really showed the diversity of cultures amongst the students here at Stanborough. I want to take the time to praise both teachers and students, for the colourful and distinctive decorations that perfectly showcased the creativity and imagination amongst pupils and staff.



Overall, International Night was a success. It was beautiful, amazing, unique and an absolutely unforgettable evening. It was great!

Sports Day

by J. Phillip

On Thursday 21st May, all students from years 7 - 10 walked down to the Woodside Stadium for an exciting day of sporting events. In the morning, we participated in field events (discus, high jump, javelin, long jump, and shot putt), while the track events took place in the afternoon (after lunch).

What was very surprising was that Livingstone, (red house) was the winner of this year's sports day, with a total of 321 points! This was surprising because in the past few years, it has not been so lucky on sports days.

I think that Livingstone won sports day overall, because in all the events (excluding Senior Girls Long Jump and Junior Girls Discus), at least one member from their house was placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd. This is truly amazing! It could also be because many of

the star athletes from Shaftsbury (blue house) and Grenfell (green house) were away in Japan, which made the races much more sensational.

The whole day was filled with fun and laughter but we did have our share of gloom. After lunch, some of the girls from Livingstone and Shaftsbury decided to practice for the 4x100m relay and unfortunately, Muskah in Year 7 was injured.

After the track events, we walked back to school, after a long and busy day of sports. I think that this sports day, was definitely not a day that will be forgotten.



Well done to everyone who participated!

International Friends

by V. Pizzuto

As another academic year draws to an end, we have so much to thank God for! Our two main programmes for our international school - Language and Cultural Tours (L&CT) and Full Immersion Experience (FIE) - continued to grow.

Our L&CT programme welcomes groups of students from schools around the globe. These short programmes last from 6 to 14 days only and give our international friends the opportunity to have a taste of England. This year we received 11 school groups from a variety of countries, including: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, China (mainland and the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong), Russia and Spain.

Our FIE programme welcomes individual students from all over the world. These are longer programmes that can last from 1 to 6 months, and are great for improving English skills. This academic year, we welcomed 49 FIE students from: Angola, Brazil, China, Japan, Peru, South Korea, Spain and the Ukraine.

As you go on holidays, and hopefully enjoy the sunshine, don't forget us in your prayers,

as our year isn't over just yet! The international School team will host one more programme: our annual Summer Camp, where students from all over the world will again join us, for 2 weeks of fun.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We hope to see you all refreshed and ready for a new school year in September!

PS. Our beautiful and talented Sandra Pavlovic (soon to be Sandra Puskas) is getting married this summer and moving back to Serbia. We will miss her LOTS. We thank her for her hard work and dedication and wish her many years of love and happiness.



Read & Tell

by L. Milis-Hopa

Stanborough's Home of Reading shared hundreds of stories with its students this year.

The title that was awarded, 'Book of the Year for 2014-2015' is *Once* by Morris Gleitzman. This comes as no surprise: you fall in love with the book on its first page. A boy facing the Holocaust on his own? What are his chances of surviving?

Long Haul by Jeff Kinney and *Oranges in no Man's Land* by Elizabeth Laird follow suit. Have you read these three most loaned library books? If not, don't lose out!

The bad news is that the library is closed for the summer. The good news is it will welcome you with open arms on the first day of school in September.

Do you also want to know which one of our students has read the most books this year? Too Bad! The cat remains in the bag until the morning of Speech Night. Happy summer and happy reading!

Boarding School Update

Comments from Boarding Students

What memories do you take with you?

"As I reflect on the past year, I take with me that I will always have a family here in Watford. I really enjoyed living with the other students and I love the fact that here, I can be myself without anyone judging me.

What I really enjoyed this year, was getting senior privileges! Alongside these privileges, I also had the opportunity to be the house sister. This meant that any of the boarders could come and speak to me about their challenges. This allowed me to gain a better understanding of people, as I was able to see them 'on a different level.' In the process I really got to know who they are and what is happening in their lives.

One of my other highlights was the musical, "Phantom of the Opera" that we attended in London. I had never been to a musical before and it was a new experience."

Grace - Year 10



"I like that we have so many international groups staying here which allows me to learn about many different cultures.

This year my highlight was the time we got to spend together with the Japanese students, as Japan is my favourite country. The Japanese students were so much fun and I learned so many things from them.

I will also remember all the great moments I shared with my roommate. I became really close friends with him and we learnt how to share our responsibilities - such as keeping our room clean. I also enjoyed the company of the other boys, who are all really nice. One common hobby that we all shared was playing FIFA together; because of this we grew to have a lot of inside jokes."

Collen - Year 9



"What I enjoy about living in the boarding school is that I get to live with my friends and have a lot of fun. Having my friends constantly around means that there are always enough people to play my favourite sports, like football or basketball. The boarding school is definitely a great place for anyone who loves sports as we are constantly either outside or in the gymnasium.

I also really like the fact that we are always getting new students from different countries. Living with people from all around the world, has helped me to develop personally. By getting to know how people from other cultures think and live, I have gained a better perspective about the world around me."

Yusuf - Year 10



"I remember the first day, I came into the boarding school. As I walked into the corridor, I saw three girls laughing and chatting. I passed them and went into my room, as everything was new and I didn't really want to be there. Later that day though, these girls came up to me and invited me to join them in the Games Room and before I even noticed it, made me a part of the group.

Now, as my first year here at the boarding school is over, I look back at all the great memories I have, of the students and staff. I know that as the holidays pass by, I will miss all my friends and people at the boarding school. I am already looking forward to coming back after summer and seeing them again and meeting all the new students."

Aisha - Year 7