



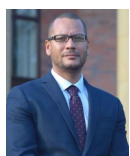
Stanborough School Newsletter



20 January 2021

Nil desperandum auspice Deo - When God is on our side, there is no cause for despair.

Message from the Headteacher



Verse of the month: *"May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy", [Colossians 1:11](#)*

Current arrangements

Following the Government's decision for a National lockdown, all students continue to learn remotely until at least February half term. We will be doing all we can to ensure that their learning experience is successful and will make all attempts to address the anxiety, which is natural given these very challenging times.

Update on Remote Learning

- ◆ **Learning Platform:** Students have been invited to attend the lessons using the Google Classroom Platform. If students are yet to receive this invite they are to email their teacher.
- ◆ **Timetable:** Students are to follow their normal subject timetable for most subjects (please see their planner).
- ◆ **PE Lessons:** Students will continue to have a study period instead of PE lessons and are encouraged to exercise outdoors where possible. In addition to this, our **Health Week** (11-15 January), allowed students to participate in a national fitness programme led by a national ambassador—Joe Wicks. Students will be following the Joe Wicks fitness programmes during form time each week. We are looking to further encourage students to participate in exercise by being involved in a national fitness programme (TOP-YA), where they learn a sport or play games that require them to be active, earn prizes and recognition while having fun. Further details will be sent out to students shortly.
- ◆ **Rest periods:** The timings for lessons have changed so that students are only required to attend lessons for 50 minutes. This will allow students and staff a rest period between lessons and minimise the amount of time they spend in front

of a screen. In addition to this, students may be required to complete tasks away from the screen during lessons. It is important however, that students meet deadlines in completing tasks so that they do not falling behind with their learning.

- ◆ **Interventions:** We are doing all we can during lockdown to ensure that your child makes expected progress. However, due to the amount of time students are already spending in front of a screen, we will not be requiring them to attend extra interventions. Instead, teachers will be giving extra support to these students in the classroom, if they have fallen behind.

Remote Learning Timetable—Spring 1

Registration and Form Time	8:35 – 9:00am
	Rest 9:00 – 9:10am
Lesson 1	9:10am – 10:00am
	Rest 10:00 – 10:10am
Lesson 2	10:10am – 11:00am
	Break 11:00am – 11:30am
Lesson 3	11:30am – 12:20pm
	Rest 12:20pm – 12:30pm
Lesson 4	12:30 – 1:20pm
	Lunch 1:20pm – 2:20pm
Afternoon registration	2:20pm – 2:30pm
Lesson 5	2:30pm – 3:20pm

Staff changes

We say goodbye to Mr. Kundi who is moving on to a new role. Thank you Mr. Kundi for your hard work and the commitment you have shown to supporting our students. We would like to welcome Mr Vakilpour, who joined us a few weeks ago and will be teaching Computing across all year groups. Mr Vakilpour brings a wealth of teaching experience and will help to support our students to reach their full potential. We also wish Mr and Mrs Gengan the best of luck as they welcome their new-born, Rheina Gengan, to their family. Mrs Gengan will be on Maternity leave for the Spring term. In order to ensure that students do not fall behind with their Biology lessons, Mrs Jagruti Shet (agency member of staff) will be teaching students for the duration.



Watford Youth Council

You are probably thinking: why would anyone want to come up with an initiative like this during a pandemic? For the youth especially? It is so easy for anyone to pose a question like that, rightfully so, but think about it! Young people are usually underestimated time and time again without the acknowledgment for being at the centre stage of the shifting pivots of human history. As much as we can't make direct comparisons given our infancy and the transcendent nature of their noble deeds, we do want to achieve one important thing: to give the youth a voice to create the change they want to see in Watford.

The Watford Youth Council is a younger branch of One vision, a volunteer group that promotes cooperation irrespective of our different walk of lives by bringing together community leaders and other people in the borough of Watford to promote unity and help out whenever they can. This is strongly reflected in our aims of "creating a network to help encourage positive change for the local community", breaking barriers and stigmas surrounding young people in the community by creating opportunities that will benefit the wider community in the future.

The youth council was officially launched on the 22nd of August 2020 at Stanborough Park on a really windy and socially distanced day. The event was graced by Dean Russell, the MP for Watford. The centre stage for discussion was trying to break and push limits for youth in the community to give a fresher perspective of what should be done to make Watford a better place by bridging the gap between the youth and the community at large.



Within a few weeks of the group being launched, we have been able to participate in the #WATFORDMOVES in honour of national fitness day on the 23rd of September 2020 at Stanborough Secondary School. This was held via Facebook by Sam PT in partnership with us, One Vision Project and Watford Council in a bid to raise awareness for living a healthy lifestyle and the importance of physical activity in the UK.

Furthermore, we have been involved in the annual Harvest festival in partnership with one vision and the British Union Conference on the 4th of October 2020. We were able to give to those in need as the COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on the most vulnerable of our community. We supported with basic needs like food as a way of emphasising the strong urge for a more communal attitude as well as benevolence which has been displayed in the past few months.

In the future, we intend to go all in and accomplish our main objectives in the most efficient ways possible through workshops and master classes for the youth to improve themselves career wise or academic wise, Christmas card competitions as well as organise a Christmas drive to pump up the festive spirit during these COVID-19 monthly physical exercises in an effort to promote wellbeing and health amongst the community.

You can get involved to. We are very open to feedback and proposals on the Youth Council in the future. I encourage you to reach out to us through our email and social media pages. You are welcome to join and we look forward to seeing you. Please come and volunteer at One Vision and follow our social media pages.

Our mantra is the acronym H.O.P.E : Help One Person Everyday and we do try to enforce it in every endeavour that we do , whether it be encouraging people to attend masterclasses and workshops, connecting with people to further your career prospects or just helping out whenever you can , we do it with the intent of leaving things twice as better as they were before.

Melissa Kansere, Co Head of Events, Watford Youth Council.

[Watford Youth Council](#) | [Giving The Youth A Voice](#) | [Watford](#)

GCSE examinations

It has recently been announced that Gavin Williamson will work with exams regulator Ofqual to put "alternative arrangements" into place, given that GCSEs will not go ahead this summer as normal. Although it's not yet been confirmed what these arrangements will be, a consultation, by Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE), invites your views on the alternative arrangements by which students will be awarded GCSEs.

It is a great way of having your views listened to and provides some clarity on the proposed changes in the summer. Please feel free to complete this survey with your child by the deadline (29 January 2021 at 23.45). It takes about 20 minutes.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BY14T/>

Announcements:

Congratulations Mrs Gengan and family! What a blessing to welcome a beautiful baby girl! "Children are a gift from the Lord", Psalm 127:3.



Careers week

On week commencing 16th November, even though we were in lockdown and couldn't be in the same room, we had an online careers week. It was a very pleasant experience and very interesting to listen to some of the alumni's jobs and successes in their lives.

On the first two days, Miss L Brewster and her twin sister S Miss Brewster gave us a very eye-opening and realistic perspective of what adulthood would be like, including the bills, expenses and taxes that need to be paid. They presented different jobs and internships that can be taken in order to be successful, and to make sure you enjoy your job.

On day three, we had the privilege to learn about life in the navy. It was a very educational and interesting topic to talk about also a well-paying and fun job to do. There are many branches and jobs you can do within the navy and many ways you can develop your skills in that area.

On the next day, we were told about jobs in ICT and what route to take, what school to go to and how to excel in that job. The Speaker Banwo Idowu was a Stanborough alumni and told us about his experience in ICT, which was very interesting to hear about.

On the last day, we were given a glimpse of what work was like in the medical field, and the quickest and easiest ways to serve the NHS. Also about how to make companions with other colleagues. It was very informative and by far my favourite.

Overall, I really enjoyed this week and hope we can learn about more jobs, and hear more stories about how people have succeeded in life. *Belicia, Year 9*

Events and key dates	
4 January	INSET Day
5 January	Spring Term Commences
11-15 January	Health Week
18 January	PTA Meeting 19:00
4 February	Year 11 Parents Evening 17:00-20:00
9 February	Year 9 Option Preference Meeting with Parents (TBC)
12 February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY COMMENCES
22 February	School Commences (subject to change—depending on updates)



Toy Service & One Vision/Youth Watford Council toy and food donations

Students and staff took time to reflect on the importance of giving. We donated toys to Stanborough Park church's annual toy service for the less fortunate in our community. We prepared gift bags for children, teenagers, fathers and mothers. Andrew Moyo, our Head boy, presented the toys to the church representatives during their drop off times at the church car park on 6th December. On the following Sunday we brought our toys and food items to One Vision/Youth Watford Council drop off point to be distributed in our community. We presented our gifts to the One Vision representatives and they were very grateful in receiving these.

Music Exam Results



We have made 8 entries for Music Grade Exam in November and all of them passed their exams.

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their exam this term!

Mia B.	Singing Grade 1	Pass with Distinction
Kari L.	Flute Grade 2	Pass with Merit
Belicia M.	Flute Grade 3	Pass
Adrian B.	Piano Grade 4	Pass with Distinction
Adrian B.	Cello Grade 1	Pass with Merit
Philip I.	Violin Grade	Pass with Merit
Lincoln O.	Singing Grade 2	Pass with Merit
Mikaela V.	Violin Grade 4	Pass

Enrolment is open!

Please note that we are accepting pupils this year. Prospective parents who would like to discuss our admissions procedure further, please contact the school at info@spsch.org.

Stanborough School Newsletter

20 January 2021

Stanborough Park
Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9JT
www.spsch.org
info@spsch.org
01923 673268

Contacting a member of staff

We are always looking at ways to increase parental engagement and have introduced a new way for parents to contact members of staff. If you need to contact a member of staff, please feel free to use the **Contact** page on our website. Members of staff will get back to you within 48 hours.

<http://www.spsch.org/contact/>